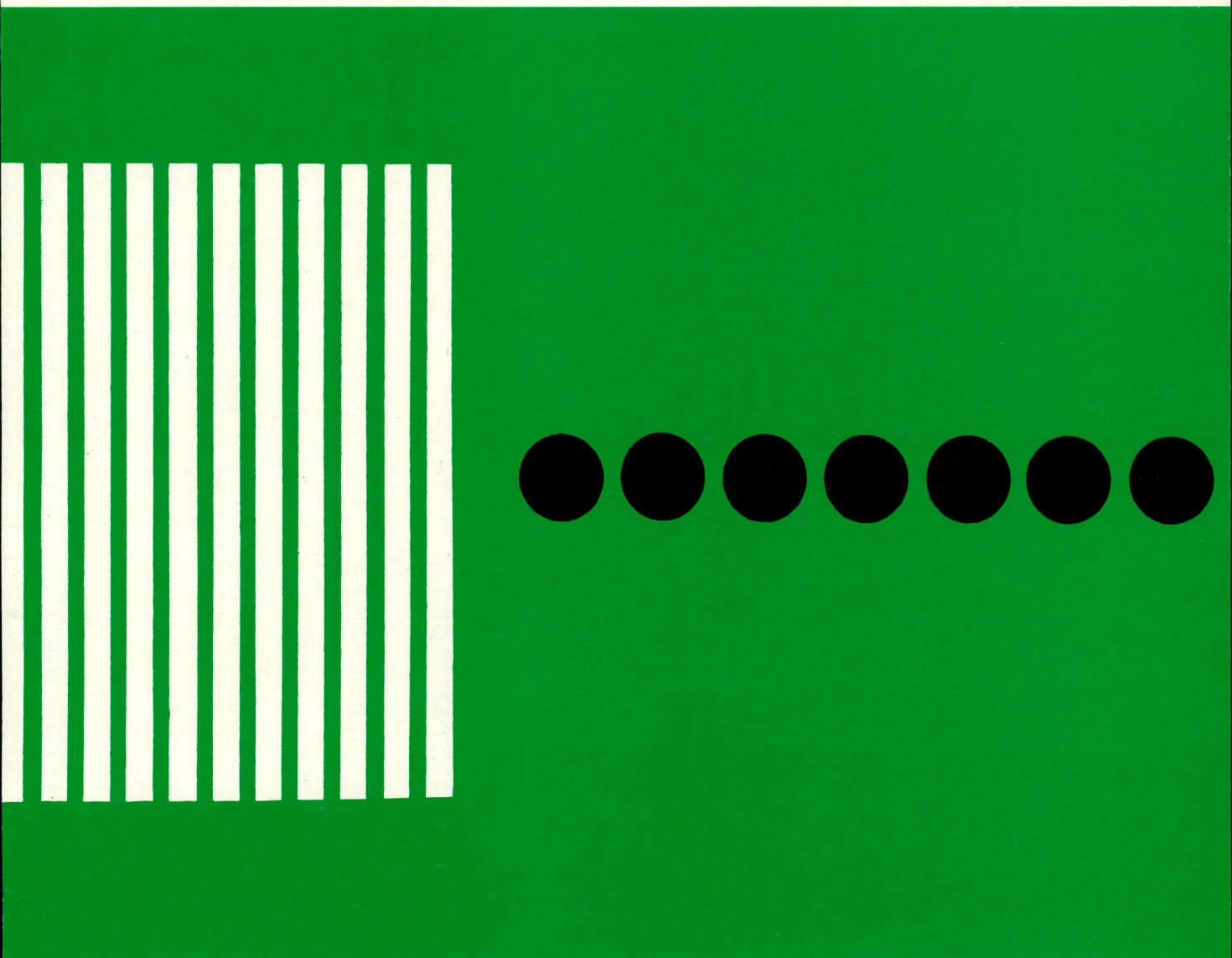


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION
Rome, 4 July to 15 July 1983



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rome 1983



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ALINORM 83/43

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

PART I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifteenth Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 4 to 15 July 1983. The Session was attended by 343 participants including the representatives and observers of 60 countries and observers from 37 international organizations (see Appendix I for the List of Participants).
2. The Commission was presided over by its Chairman, Professor Dr. D. Eckert (Federal Republic of Germany) and for certain items of the agenda by the following Vice-Chairmen: Dr. A.A.M. Hasan (Iraq) and Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA). Apologies for absence were received from the third Vice-Chairman, Dr. A.H. Ibrahim (Sudan). The Joint Secretaries were Mr. G.O. Kermode (FAO/WHO), Mr. H.J. McNally (FAO/WHO) and Dr. F. Käferstein (WHO).
3. The Session was opened by Mr. G.O. Kermode, Chief, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The text of Mr. Kermode's address is contained in Appendix II of this Report. The response of the Chairman is contained in Appendix III of this Report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

4. The Commission adopted the Provisional Agenda and Timetable of the Session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. During the Session, the Commission elected Mr. E.F. Kimbrell (USA) as Chairman of the Commission to serve from the end of the Fifteenth to the end of the Sixteenth Session. The Commission also elected Dr. Ms. A. Brincker (Denmark), Dr. A.A.M. Hasan (Iraq) and Dr. E.R. Méndez (Mexico) as Vice-Chairmen of the Commission to serve from the end of the Fifteenth to the end of the Sixteenth Session.
6. The following Members of the Commission were nominated to represent the geographic locations mentioned in Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission: Cameroon - Africa; Republic of Korea - Asia; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Europe; Argentina - Latin America; Canada - North America; Australia - South-West Pacific. In the absence of any other nominations the Commission elected, by clear general consent, from the Members of the Commission, representatives for the following geographical locations in the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to hold office from the end of the Fifteenth to the end of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission in accordance with Rule III.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission: Cameroon - Africa; Republic of Korea - Asia; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - Europe; Argentina - Latin America; Canada - North America; Australia - South-West Pacific.

APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS

7. The following persons were appointed by the Commission as Regional Coordinators for: Africa - Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya); Asia - Prof. A. Bhumiratana (Thailand); Europe - Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland); Latin America - Minister Ing. Ramon Darias Rodés (Cuba), to serve from the end of the Fifteenth to the end of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.

PART II

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TWENTY-NINTH AND THIRTIETH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8. The Commission received reports concerning the Twenty-Ninth and Thirtieth Sessions of the Executive Committee contained in documents ALINORM 83/3 and ALINORM 83/4, respectively. In introducing and reviewing the reports, the Chairman indicated that all substantive items considered by the Executive Committee would be dealt with by the Commission under agenda items relating to the matters concerned. The following matters were dealt with under this item of the agenda.

Glossary of Terms Relating to Food Safety

9. The Commission was informed that the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-Ninth Session (see paras 119-121 of ALINORM 83/3) had received a report by WHO on the elaboration of standardized terminology on food and nutrition, including terms relevant to food safety. In the course of the elaboration of this terminology, difficulties had been encountered with respect to certain Codex definitions that could, for technical reasons, not be included in WHO's computerized Terminology Information System. The Executive Committee had taken note of this situation but considered that no action on its part was called for at the present time since the purposes of the Codex definitions were different from those of WHO. The Commission agreed with this view of its Executive Committee.

Consideration of Written Comments at Codex Committee Sessions

10. The Commission strongly supported the reminder of the Executive Committee at its Twenty-Ninth Session to Codex Committee Chairmen (para. 140, ALINORM 83/3) of their obligation under Section 10(b) of the "Guidelines for Codex Committees" as contained in the Procedural Manual of the Commission, to ensure that the written comments of countries not represented at the sessions were considered by the Commission. The Commission recognized that whilst all comments must be considered, it would not always be practicable to reflect all comments in the report. However, brief reasons for disagreeing with any proposal of a country not represented at the sessions should be recorded.

Nineteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

11. A propos of paragraph 147 of document ALINORM 83/3, the Commission noted that the 19th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene had been fixed for 26 to 30 September 1983.

Despatch of Codex Working Documents

12. The Representative of the Region of Latin America, at the 29th Session of the Executive Committee, had indicated that the authorities in Brazil had requested that every endeavour should be made by the Secretariat to despatch working documents for

Codex meetings earlier. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that it had looked into this matter. The Delegation of Brazil indicated that working documents were now being received in good time before sessions.

Length and Content of Codex Reports

13. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that the topic of the possibility of reducing the length and improving the structure of Codex Committee reports had been introduced by the Representative of the Region of North America at the 30th Session of the Executive Committee. The discussion on this topic and the conclusions of the Executive Committee are contained in document ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 41-45.

14. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Executive Committee and noted that in response to the proposal of the Representative of the Region of North America, key words indicating decisions taken or action planned, etc., would, henceforth, be underlined in all Codex reports.

Arrangements for the Amendment of Codex Standards Elaborated by Codex Committees which Have Adjourned Sine Die

15. The Commission took note of the Executive Committee discussions on this topic at its 30th Session as contained in paras 50-64 of ALINORM 83/4. The Commission agreed with the conclusions of the Executive Committee as set out in para. 54 of ALINORM 83/4 concerning the new administrative arrangements which were set out in an Appendix to the Report of the 30th Session of the Executive Committee. The Commission expressed satisfaction at the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard and noted that the Secretariat would be sending a circular letter on this matter to all Member States.

Uniform International Code for the Identification of Meat Cuts

16. The Commission was informed that this subject had been raised by the Representative of the Region of North America at the 30th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 55-57).

17. The Commission noted that the Executive Committee would be considering this matter again at its 31st Session in the light of a paper to be prepared by Canada giving more information on current coding systems, countries using them and the extent of international trade in boxed meat cuts. On the question of whether this kind of activity fell within the terms of reference of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Delegation of Norway expressed the view that if there was to be standardization work undertaken in this field it should be done within the Codex system.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

18. The Commission had before it a list of Members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The membership is set out in Appendix VIII to this report. The Commission noted that since its last Session, Grenada had become a member of the Commission, bringing the current membership to 122 countries. The Commission expressed the hope that Grenada would find Codex work of value.

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

20. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/2. In addition to the information contained therein, the Commission was informed about EEC/Codex Inter-Secretariat discussions which had taken place since the Commission's last Session. The Commission was informed that in the case of products for which there were Codex standards but no EEC Directives, the EEC had agreed to approach the Member States of the Community to ascertain whether they had any national legislation governing these products. In connection with this undertaking, the EEC had indicated that it wished to receive from the Codex Secretariat an order of priorities for the commodities to be looked into. It was hoped that when the EEC had collected all the responses from the Member States of the Community, it might be in a position to advise the Codex Secretariat of what products in conformity with Codex standards could be distributed freely within the Community, always subject to the provisions of the EEC Directives on food labelling and additives.
21. The Commission was also informed that the EEC/Codex Inter-Secretariat discussions had also dealt with the fundamental question of to what extent it might be possible to bring the EEC position in the field of food safety e.g. its maximum limits for pesticide residues and other contaminants and its provisions on food additives into closer harmony with the worldwide standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in the interest of facilitating worldwide trade and, especially, exports from developing countries. The Commission was further informed that these discussions were ongoing.
22. The Secretariat informed the Commission that it hoped to hold similar discussions with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and possibly with other economic groupings.
23. The Secretariat informed the Commission that since the time of the publication of document ALINORM 83/2 the following countries had indicated their positions with regard to acceptance of the standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues:
- Bahrain, Cameroon, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Tanzania and Thailand.
24. The Secretariat furnished the Commission with a verbal résumé of each response from the countries listed above. The Commission was informed that these replies would be published in due course. The Commission was pleased to note that the above responses were mainly positive.
25. The Delegation of Japan stated that it would be difficult for Japan to take immediate action at present regarding acceptances of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues. Products in conformity with Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues could be distributed freely in Japan, provided they also complied with the relevant Japanese requirements. Concerning date marking, the date of manufacture had to be declared in Japan instead of the date of minimum durability as favoured by Codex. Also only those food additives which appeared in the Japanese official list would be permitted in foods in Japan. The Delegation of Japan expressed its readiness to make further efforts to advance the acceptances of the Codex standards and the maximum limits for pesticide residues.
26. The Delegation of the USA indicated that in addition to the information contained in ALINORM 83/2, the USA had completed action on another 33 standards. The USA hoped to be in a position to announce completion of action on all standards, in due course.
27. The Delegation of Sweden stated that it had been decided, in principle, to accept 5 standards for quick frozen fish and the standards for canned pineapple and canned peaches. Also it had been decided, in principle, to put forward proposals for the acceptance of the

maximum limits for pesticide residues contained in the 4th, 5th and 6th series. Sweden hoped to be in a position to carry out the above intended action before the next session of the Commission.

28. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that it was not yet in a position to accept the standards because of certain legal difficulties. Switzerland preferred to think in terms of free distribution of products in conformity with certain Codex standards. The Delegation of Switzerland recalled that on June 6, 1978 it had announced that 35 products for which there were Codex standards would be permitted free entry into Switzerland. The Delegation of Switzerland thought that the situation in regard to maximum limits for pesticide residues was more complex, since the maximum limits would have to apply to indigenous as well as imported products.

29. The Delegation of Portugal referred to the position of Portugal as stated in paragraph 8 of document ALINORM 83/2. Portugal hoped to be able to give a definitive acceptance before too long.

30. The Delegation of Brazil indicated that in Brazil an Inter-Ministerial Committee had been established to strengthen participation in Codex work. The Delegation of Brazil stated that this action had been taken, because of the interest of Brazil in the work of the Commission. The Delegation of Brazil stated that in the past 20 years the recommendations of the Commission had played an important role in public health and trade. The Inter-Ministerial Committee would prepare guidelines for adoption of Codex standards and other recommendations and Brazil had decided to intensify its participation in Codex activities.

31. The Delegation of Poland stated that the Codex standards were being examined in Poland and expressed the hope that it would be possible to accept most of them with specified deviations.

32. The Delegation of Thailand stated that the Codex standards were being considered in Thailand, with the hope that it would be possible to accept most of them. In Thailand the date of manufacture was used and not the date of minimum durability as recommended by Codex. Thailand was also awaiting the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries.

33. The Delegation of Hungary stated that many of the maximum limits for pesticide residues would be acceptable to Hungary. Hungary would be indicating its official position on this matter to the Codex Secretariat in due course.

34. The Delegation of Australia indicated that in Australia food legislation was a matter for each state rather than a national matter. This had presented difficulties from the point of view of Australia notifying formal acceptance of the Codex standards. Efforts were underway to determine how a uniform Australian position could be arrived at in spite of the difficulties presented by the fact that legislation on food standards was the prerogative of each state.

35. The Delegation of Argentina had sent to the Secretariat 71 decisions on Codex standards and Codes of Practice. Argentina was also looking into the question of what differences there might be between Codex methods of analysis and its own methods of analysis, and when this study had been completed the Codex Secretariat would be informed. Other Codex standards were also being examined in Argentina, particularly standards for dairy products. Argentina hoped to be able to send to the Secretariat another 29 decisions by the end of this year relating to processed fruits and vegetables, fruit juices and cheeses, making a total of 100 decisions. The Delegation of Argentina indicated that it had not had time to respond to Mr. Kermodé's recent letter on the subject of acceptances. The position of Argentina was as follows. Where Argentina had given acceptances with specified deviations, those deviations would have to be met. Products which were in conformity with

Codex standards could enter Argentina, only if they also met the Argentinian requirements. Concerning the maximum limits for pesticide residues, the Delegation of Argentina indicated that there had been some recent amendments to its plant protection law.

36. The Delegation of Yugoslavia stated that Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues had been taken into account in Yugoslavia in the development of Yugoslavian national standards. The Delegation stated that, in principle, Yugoslavia accepted Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues, even if, at times, some maximum limits might not be acceptable.

37. The Delegation of India drew the attention of the Commission to the views of the WHO Executive Board on the subject of acceptances. These views were set out in para.28 of document ALINORM 83/2. The Delegation of India stated that where countries were unable to accept Codex standards they should state the reasons for non-acceptance, because it was important to know why the standards were not accepted. The Delegation of India thought the Commission should consider why the number of acceptances received to-date was less than might reasonably have been hoped for. The Delegation thought that maximum limits for pesticide residues should take account of data supplied by developing countries and that FAO and WHO should assist in generating such data. The Delegation of India stressed the importance of persuading the developed countries which had been mainly responsible for the development of the standards of the need for them to give a lead to other countries, particularly developing countries, in order to obtain more acceptances of the standards.

38. The Delegation of the USSR stated that although the USSR had not accepted any Codex standards, their importance was recognized in the USSR. In the food additives field, and in the food labelling field, the requirements of the USSR differed somewhat from the Codex recommendations. Also there would be some difficulty in accepting the Codex maximum limits because the USSR had its own national limits.

39. The Delegation of Spain indicated that a new law on pesticides was about to be passed in Spain. This meant that there would be new limits for maximum residue limits in various food products. In the establishment of these new limits particular attention would be paid to the Codex recommendations. The Delegation of Spain stated that it hoped to be able to give a favourable response to many of the Codex standards, but such a response would have to await Spain's becoming a Member of the EEC.

40. The Delegation of Czechoslovakia stated that most Codex standards were acceptable in Czechoslovakia, even if no formal acceptances of the standards had been notified as yet. Czechoslovakia was preparing its position in respect of each Codex standard and hoped that by the end of the year it would be in a position to communicate its position to the Codex Secretariat.

41. The Delegation of Canada stated that it had forwarded comments to the Secretariat on 22 June 1983 in which more acceptances had been notified for standards for milk products and standards for processed meat products. Canada hoped to be able to notify further acceptances later.

42. The Delegation of New Zealand stated that New Zealand was examining the Codex standards and hoped to convey a positive response before the next session of the Commission.

43. The Delegation of Mexico stated that it had given to the Secretariat a paper setting out Mexico's position on acceptances. Mexico intended to set up a national Codex Committee, for the purposes of looking into the possibility of giving acceptances to Codex standards.

44. The Delegation of the Philippines stated that it was in the process of making an evaluation of the different Codex standards. The Philippines was looking at the Codex Standard for Irradiated Foods and would inform the Secretariat in due course whether the standard was acceptable. The Delegation of the Philippines thought the Guidelines on the Labelling of Food Additives contained in Volume VI of the Codex Alimentarius were acceptable in principle. The policy in the Philippines was to permit entry of products in conformity with Codex standards and Philippine law.

45. The Delegation of Senegal stated that the position of Senegal as regards Codex standards had been made known at the last session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa. Senegal was making use of Codex standards and hoped to be able to notify its position formally on acceptances of the standards before very long.

46. The Observer from the EEC referred to the information contained in document ALINORM 83/2 regarding the path the EEC intended to follow on acceptances. The EEC Observer stated that the EEC preferred to think in terms of acceptability of a product rather than of a standard. The EEC did not exclude formal acceptance, but preferred the free distribution idea. The Observer from the EEC stated that the communication setting out the EEC position on fruit juices contained some differences from the corresponding Codex standards which could not properly be classified as deviations. He stated that the Codex Secretariat had been requested to indicate those products where reaction of Community States was considered important. In connection with the idea of free entry, the Observer from the EEC also invited suggestions from delegates in this regard.

47. The Commission acknowledged that some countries faced particular legal difficulties in accepting standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues, but encouraged such countries to try to overcome these difficulties in the interest of facilitating international trade. The Commission considered that especially those countries which had participated in the development of Codex standards should, in the first place, give a lead to others, in order to encourage a wider degree of acceptances of the standards.

48. The Commission welcomed the steps being taken in the EEC with regard to Codex standards. The Commission thought that the EEC should try to give formal acceptance to as many standards as possible, but recognized that where this was not possible a declaration of free entry would be very useful in the interest of international trade. The Commission endorsed the view of the Executive Committee as regards the importance it attached to formal acceptance.

49. The Commission requested the Secretariat to continue its drive on acceptances. It also urged the Secretariat to continue its discussion with the EEC, and initiate discussions with CMEA and other economic groupings, if appropriate. The Commission expressed the hope that by the next session of the Commission more countries would have accepted many more of the Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues.

REPORT ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME (i) FINALIZATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1980/81; (ii) BUDGET FOR 1982/83; (iii) BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR 1984/85

50. The Commission had before it ALINORM 83/5 which was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission noted that this paper had been reviewed by the Executive Committee at its 30th Session (ALINORM 83/4, paras 4-5). The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that it was expected that the Commission's programme of activities would be fully accommodated within the budget ceiling for 1982/83. The Commission was also informed that on the basis of the likely programme of Codex Sessions in 1984/85 and the expected overall workload in the biennium the budget proposals for 1984/85 with cost increases to be added, would enable the programme to proceed satisfactorily throughout the 1984/85 biennium.

The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that it expected to be able to assist more materially, within the overall limits of its budget, the hosting of Regional Codex Coordinating Committees by developing countries in 1984/85.

51. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO for making provision within their respective Organizations Programmes of Work and Regular Budgets for 1984/85 to maintain in real terms the level of the Codex budget and for ensuring the smooth continuation of the Commission's activities as had been requested by the Commission at its 14th Session.

PART III

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ON ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON STANDARDIZATION OF FOOD AND RELATED MATTERS

52. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/6 which contained three sections, Section A. - Joint FAO/WHO Activities, Section B. - Report on FAO Activities and Section C. - Report on WHO Activities.

REPORT ON JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES

Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) - 1982

53. The relevant details on the 1982 session are covered in the document.

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

54. The FAO Joint Secretary of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives briefed the Commission on the 26th (1982) and 27th (1983) sessions of the Committee. While relevant details of the 26th Session are covered in ALINORM 83/6 the Commission was informed that a total of 63 compounds were evaluated at the 27th Session. In addition, arsenic, iron and two xenobiotic anabolic agents (trenbolone acetate and zeranol) were also evaluated as food contaminants. The comprehensive review of this latter group of compounds led the Committee to a number of conclusions which were brought to the attention of the Commission. In the case of two compounds, i.e. Butylated hydroxyanisole and potassium bromate the Committee further decided to publish its decisions immediately after the Session, in order to respond quickly to requests from Member States.

55. The Commission took note of the information provided and recommended that efforts should be made to publish a short summary of the conclusions after each session, as in the past. The Observer from the Fédération Internationale des Industries du Commerce en Gros de Vins, Spiritueux, Eaux-de-Vie et Liqueurs (FIVS) also suggested that a copy of this information should be shared with them.

56. The Chairman referred to the 30th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 83/4) during which some consideration was given to the proper ways and means of evaluating certain chemicals used in animal husbandry and veterinary medicines also suggesting that this matter be considered under Agenda Item 13 (see paras. 156-162).

57. Irradiated Foods

(i) Microbiological Safety of Irradiated Foods

In addition to the information provided in ALINORM 83/6 the Commission was informed that the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, at its session in 1979 (ALINORM 79/13), had

expressed concern about the effect of irradiation on microorganisms in food. For this reason, although a Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Expert Committee on the Wholesomeness of Irradiated Food (JECFI) had in 1980 concluded (TRS 659) that irradiation of any food up to an overall average dose of 10 kGy introduced no special microbiological problem, WHO, jointly with FAO, had decided to ask for a second opinion from specialists in food microbiology who had not taken part in the JECFI meeting in 1980. The International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene of the International Union on Microbiological Societies, was, therefore, asked if these concerns were justified or if sufficient scientific research had been performed to alleviate them. The Board of this Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor D. Mossel, Utrecht/NL, during its meeting in December 1982 in Copenhagen, concluded, after having analysed the scientific knowledge to date, that it was satisfied that there was no cause for concern. Irradiation-induced genetic mutation of pathogens in food did not create an increased hazard to health, and, in the Board's opinion, there would be no qualitative difference between the kind of mutation induced by ionising irradiation and that induced by any other pasteurization/partial preservation methods such as heat treatment or vacuum drying. Modern food technology was adequate to control problems created by suppression of spoilage microorganisms. Food irradiation was seen as an important addition to the methods of control of foodborne pathogens and would not present any additional hazard to health. The report on the meeting was available as Codex document CX/FH 83/9.

(ii) International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation

With the termination of the International Project on Food Irradiation (IFIP) at the end of 1981, a need had been felt in many countries for a continuation of international cooperation on food irradiation. To this end, the Directors-General of FAO, IAEA and WHO had written a joint letter to their Member States on 13/7/82 inviting them to indicate officially their interest in this field. As a consequence of this, 55 Member States had replied to this letter and 54 had indicated their interest in the continuation of international cooperation on food irradiation. Twenty Member States attended a meeting in Vienna, which took place on 24 February 1983. The representatives of Member States at this meeting, after due consideration and deliberation, had adopted a Declaration in which they agreed that an International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation be established by the interested governments for an initial period of five years. This Consultative Group would not be a part of either FAO, IAEA or WHO, but would cooperate with them as indicated in the Declaration. This Consultative Group would become operational when at least 15 Member States had sent a letter of acceptance to the Director-General of either FAO, IAEA or WHO.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme

58. The Commission was informed that this Programme had been initiated in 1976 and that so far 22 countries were participating in the programme. One institution in each of these countries had been designated as Collaboration Centre for the Programme. Other Member States of both FAO and WHO had been invited to collaborate with the programme, in order to establish national food contamination monitoring and participate in the international programme. They had also been invited to study the various publications which were produced under the programme, the latest being the "Analytical Quality Assurance of Monitoring Data", which was published in 1981 and "Summary and Assessment of Data Received from the FAO/WHO Collaborating Centres for Food Contamination Monitoring", which was issued in 1982.

59. The Commission was further informed that "Guidelines for the Study of Dietary Intakes of Chemical Contaminants" were being issued, and that a further session of the Technical Advisory Committee was scheduled for Autumn 1983.

Guidelines for Can Manufacturers and Food Canners on the Prevention of Lead and Tin Contamination of Canned Foods

60. The Commission was informed that as a part of FAO/WHO efforts toward the control of food contamination a guideline on the above subject had been drafted and was scheduled for publication during 1983.

REPORT ON FAO ACTIVITIES

61. The Commission was informed that except for the JMPR, the joint FAO/WHO activities, as well as the FAO activities, referred to in ALINORM 83/6 were part of the responsibilities of the FAO Food Quality and Standards Service. The document did not deal with several other FAO related activities such as prevention of food losses, zoonoses control, etc. which would also have a bearing on the work of the Commission.

62. The following activities relating to cooperation with member governments, particularly of developing countries, mentioned in Part B of the paper were introduced in more detail:

(i) Strengthening of food control and food quality control systems and infrastructures including advice on and assistance for food legislation, setting up of laboratories and inspectorate staff.

(ii) National food quality control strategy workshops to develop coherent strategies for promoting and developing food control systems. Recommendations from several of such national workshops were now being considered for implementation at high policy and technical levels. Reference was made to the forthcoming Joint CARICOM/PAHO/FAO Regional Workshop to be held in Antigua in November 1983.

(iii) Food contamination surveys. Particular reference was invited to the FAO/NORWAY Food Contamination Study for Asia and the Far East and several national food contamination studies being supported by FAO.

(iv) Mycotoxins - prevention, control and monitoring. Special reference was made to the FAO/UNDP/African Groundnut Council project in operation since 1978 - second phase starting in 1984.

(v) Training, which received the highest priority. Several international and national training courses were organized for the control of environmental contaminants in foods. Special attention given to training in maintenance and repair of scientific instruments.

(vi) Food handling. A comparatively new activity for improvement of food handling practices at village and household levels with a view to ensuring quality, safety and wholesomeness of food and thus improving nutritional status of the population. A regional workshop in south-eastern African countries held in Lusaka in 1982 with participation of 5 countries. A similar workshop for about 13 Asian countries to be held in Thailand in November 1983. As several problems of food quality and safety, as well as food losses, stem from improper handling of food, the activities in the subject area should meet the needs of nutrition, food safety, consumer protection and rural development.

(vii) Publication. Besides the existing publications, a new one on "Post Harvest Losses in Quality of Food grains" to be issued in 1983 was referred to.

(viii) Pesticide residues. A second Government Consultation on International Harmonization of Pesticide Registration Requirements had been held in 1982 which had made recommendations concerning the control of the use of pesticides, their transport, labelling and of the disposal of surplus pesticide containers and various other aspects. The FAO Consultation had also made a review of the current status of pesticide registration procedures and requirements. Furthermore, FAO was actively assisting member countries, on request, in strengthening laboratory and organizational infrastructures for the control of pesticides.

REPORT OF WHO ACTIVITIES

63. The Commission was informed that several WHO programmes and/or units were engaged in activities which touched upon matters related to food safety and that technical cooperation activities were mainly carried out by WHO Regional Offices. The following activities were introduced in more detail concerning what WHO had done or was undertaking related to food safety:

(i) Guidelines

- Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality (available in mid-1983)
- Guidelines in Slaughter Techniques and Meat Hygiene under Austere Conditions (under preparation)
- Guide to Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (available end 1983)
- Guidelines on Salmonellosis (Prevention and Control) (under preparation)
- Inventory of Audio-visual Aids on Food Safety (available end of 1983)
- Manual on Food Virology (under preparation)
- Training Guidelines on Safe Food Handling in Hotels, Restaurants and Similar Establishments (available end of 1983)
- Guidelines for the Development of Educational Material on Safe Food, Environmental and Personal Hygiene (available 1984)
- Professional Profile for the Food Inspectors (available in 1984).

(ii) Symposium on the Health Effects of Heavy Metals in Infant Formula and Junior Food

This symposium, jointly sponsored by WHO and the Joint FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre on Food Contamination Monitoring (Centre for Surveillance and Health Evaluation of Environmental Chemicals of the Federal Health Office in Berlin (West)), took place in November 1981. The proceedings have been published in early 1983 by Springer, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York.

(iii) WHO Surveillance Programme for Control of Food-borne Infections and Intoxications in Europe

Several Member States of the European Region collaborate in the efforts to establish a surveillance programme for food-borne diseases. It is hoped that the experience gathered in this activity can be applied to other regions of the world.

(iv) Seminar on the Organization and Management of Food Control Services

The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, jointly with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, sponsored this seminar in 1982 which was held in and received technical input from the Joint FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Food Hygiene, Robert von Ostertag-Institute, Berlin (West).

(v) International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)

The Commission was informed that the membership of the IPCS had increased substantially since its last session. IPCS had been able to considerably strengthen the WHO contribution to both the JECFA and JMPR by means of extending the contributions of WHO Temporary Advisers. The Environmental Health Criteria Programme of IPCS was also

progressing well and had elaborated several documents of relevance to food safety, e.g. the criteria documents on mycotoxins, lead, mercury, DDT and PCBs.

(vi) Health Legislation

WHO continued to publish a quarterly journal, the International Digest of Health Legislation, in English and French editions. National and international legal texts dealing, inter alia, with food safety and nutrition were regularly published, usually in summary forms. It included also book reviews and reports on conferences, etc. and would, therefore, be a valuable information source for public health (including food safety), administrators and the like.

(vii) International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (for details see para. 376).

(viii) Nutritional Value and Safety of Products Specifically Intended for Infant and Young Child Feeding (for details see para. 377).

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

65. The Delegation of Cuba referred to its paper, document ALINORM 83/42 contributing ideas to further the objectives of the Commission's work. In view of the statements made by representatives of FAO and WHO on this agenda item, the Delegation was pleased to note that most of the ideas referred to in their paper had been either acted upon or were being pursued within FAO, WHO or the Commission Secretariat.

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

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

66. The Observer from the UNECE indicated that copies of a report on the activities of the UNECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce had been made available to the Commission. As regards developments concerning arrangements to avoid duplication of effort between Codex work and UNECE work on standardization, the Observer from the UNECE indicated that these developments had been well summed up in the report of the 30th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 17-19). On the matter of ensuring greater knowledge of Codex work in other UN Agencies, the Observer from the UNECE stated that he would contact the appropriate Divisions in UNECE and inform them of the work of the Codex programme and about the concerns expressed in the Commission on the need to avoid duplication of effort.

European Economic Community (EEC)

67. The Observer from the EEC stated that there were some inaccuracies in the section of the report of the 29th Session of the Executive Committee dealing with consultations which had taken place between the Codex Secretariat and officials of the Commission of the EEC (ALINORM 83/3, paragraphs 54-69). The Observer from the EEC expressed the view that the differences between EEC Directives and the corresponding Codex standards were rather minor. In this connection, he made specific reference to the standards for fruit juices and the standard for chocolate.

68. Although it was not the intention of the EEC to elaborate specific standards for edible fats and oils, he thought that edible fats and oils which were in conformity with Codex standards should not encounter any significant difficulties in entering the territory of the EEC. He indicated that the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods had been used as a model for the EEC Directive on Food Labelling. Since then, the EEC had made some changes in the rules on food labelling and had brought these changes to the attention of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, which was now revising the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods. The revised version of the Codex General Standard, as it was now emerging, was very similar to the EEC Directive and this would be a big step in facilitating international trade in food. He concluded by stating that the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was very helpful and much appreciated in the EEC and he considered that the ongoing dialogue between Codex and the EEC was also very helpful and should be of benefit both to Codex and to the EEC.

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)

69. The Observer from the CMEA indicated that a brief report on the activities of the CMEA (LIM 11) had been made available to the Commission. He indicated that Hungary was continuing its work of comparing CMEA and Codex Standards, with a view to bringing the CMEA standards into line with the Codex standards, as far as possible.

Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO)

70. The Observer from ASMO indicated that a progress report of the activities of ASMO had been made available to the Commission. He stated that it was the aim of ASMO to have Arab standards as close as possible to Codex standards. He expressed satisfaction at the strong emphasis being placed in the Commission on the needs of developing countries. He added that ASMO wished to adopt as many as possible of the Codex standards but, stressed the need for more internationally agreed methods of analysis.

International Wine Office (IWO)

71. In the absence of an official representative from IWO, the Delegation of France spoke on behalf of that organization. IWO had set up a working party and had held a meeting in 1982 on labelling of wines. The standard on the labelling of wines which IWO was developing was intended to supplement the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods, by laying down certain specific provisions for wines. The IWO draft standard on labelling of wines would be considered by IWO in October 1983. When the text is finalized a copy would be sent to the Codex Secretariat.

Council of Europe (CE)

72. The Chairman informed the Commission that the Codex Secretariat had received a communication from the Council of Europe stating that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, it would not be possible for the CE to be represented at the Commission's current session. The communication received from the Council of Europe had indicated that a progress report on activities of interest in the CE had recently been forwarded to the Secretariat.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

73. The Commission noted that a report on the activities of the ISO Technical Committee 34 (Agricultural Food Products) had been prepared by the Secretariat of ISO/TC 34. The report was made available to the Commission.

Statement by the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, United States Delegation

74. The Commission was addressed by Mr. C.W. McMillan, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, reaffirming the United States' commitment to the goals of the Commission. The United States considered the Codex programme the primary organization for the promotion

of food safety and its positive impact on world-wide trade in foodstuffs could help achieve strong economies, a universal goal of governments. Particular attention was drawn to the need for avoiding duplication within the United Nations framework and in this connection reference was made to the ECOSOC Draft Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the United Nations effort to prepare a consolidated list of products harmful to health and environment, which would have applied to food additives, pesticide residues and other contaminants.

75. The full text of the Assistant Secretary's address is attached as Appendix IV to this report.

76. In response to the need for coordination and the two specific instances referred to above, the Secretariat informed the Commission that FAO had been closely involved from the beginning in the development of the Draft Guidelines for Consumer Protection being considered by ECOSOC. It had been recognized that FAO was in fact the lead agency in consumer protection in the food area and there was no duplication on this score. It was further stated that the Draft Guidelines gave full cognizance to the Codex work.

77. As regards the preparation of a consolidated list of hazardous products, both FAO and WHO were involved in the exercise. FAO had taken strong objection to the inclusion of food additives and pesticides in the draft list. FAO had further suggested that a clearer set of criteria be established for the inclusion of the substances in this list and that it need not cover all sorts of chemical referred to above for which well-established mechanisms for their use existed. FAO was hopeful that due consideration would be given to its views before the finalization of the list.

Statement by the Minister-President of the Cuban State Committee for Standardization

78. The Commission was addressed by Mr. Ramon Darias Rodés, Minister-President of the Cuban State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control, in fulfillment of an agreement with the Movement on Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries. The Minister informed the Commission of the results of the First Meeting of Experts in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control from the Movement of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, held in Havana from 28 to 30 September 1981. The meeting, which had been attended by 29 countries and 2 international organizations, had discussed the role of standardization in the establishment of a new International Economic Order and had agreed on guidelines for future activities. The Minister also referred to the Final Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, in February 1981, in which the importance of standardization, metrology and quality control activities in the process of industrialization, transfer of technology and technical cooperation among developing countries was recognized, as was also the importance of these activities in encouraging and promoting better trade relations. The Minister emphasized the importance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The full text of the Minister's address is attached as Appendix V to this Report.

79. The Chairman thanked the Minister for his statement, which constituted a very valuable contribution to the Commission's deliberations. The Chairman expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Commission, of the Minister's recognition of the efforts of the Commission in placing increased emphasis on the needs and concerns of the developing countries. The Chairman added that the Commission would do its utmost within the framework of its Statutes, to respond to the needs of the developing countries.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOPING COMPOSITION STANDARDS FOR FOOD AND RELATED MATTERS

80. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/35 which was introduced by the Secretariat. The Commission noted that this document, which was for information purposes

only, had been considered by the Executive Committee at its 29th Session (ALINORM 83/3, paragraphs 40-44). The Commission endorsed the view of the Executive Committee that the paper was a very comprehensive and useful document. The Commission also agreed with the conclusion in the paper, as set out in paragraphs 32-33 of the document, and which had been reproduced in the report of the Executive Committee.

81. The Commission wished to emphasize the importance which it attached to its mandate to promote coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission instructed its Secretariat to follow closely any developments in the food standards and related foods in other international organizations, which might be of interest to the Commission.

JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD SAFETY, GENEVA, 30 MAY TO 6 JUNE 1983

82. The WHO Joint Secretary of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety briefed the Commission on the highlights of the meeting and drew particular attention to paragraphs 35-39 of the Report of the 30th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 83/4).

83. The Executive Committee had commended WHO and FAO for convening this Expert Committee on Food Safety and had hoped that WHO and FAO could address the problem associated with contaminated food by making - inter alia - greater use of the standards and codes developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It had offered its full support for the improvement of food safety throughout the world.

84. The Commission noted the report on the Expert Committee on Food Safety and the views expressed by its Executive Committee, which were endorsed. The Commission again emphasized the need for technical cooperation with developing countries in this important area, so that the strategies recommended by the Expert Committee could be suitably implemented.

PART IV

NEED FOR AND FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING CODEX STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FROM A TRADE POINT OF VIEW, TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

85. The Commission had before it a paper on this subject which had been prepared by a Consultant (ALINORM 83/7). In introducing the paper, the Secretariat drew the Commission's particular attention to the summary conclusions contained in paragraph 60 of the paper.

86. The Delegations of Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and New Zealand were in favour of and stressed the need for the development of international standards, for one or more of the reasons given in the paper in favour of developing standards.

87. The Delegation of New Zealand drew attention to a misunderstanding in relation to paragraph 36 of the paper. This related to the statement that "almost all of the importing countries supplying information indicated that international quality standards accepted and uniformly applied would assist international trade in these products". In the paper, there was the remark that one country - New Zealand - had stated that it did not think so. The Delegation of New Zealand indicated that this statement applied only to imports into New Zealand, but that as New Zealand was developing its horticultural exports, international standards would be of benefit to New Zealand.

88. The Delegation of Australia stated that it supported the idea of international standards, as otherwise regional standards might be developed.

89. The Delegations of the United Kingdom and the USA were opposed to the development of standards for several reasons. The Delegation of the United Kingdom stated that work in this field had been started by the OECD. Of all the countries that had replied to the questionnaire, only six of these could be regarded as exporting developing countries. Standards might be developed which the exporting countries themselves might find difficult to meet. The main constraint to trade cited in the paper - pesticide residue limits - could be dealt with in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues.
90. The Delegation of the USA drew attention to the cost, not alone of developing the standards, but of enforcing them; it also drew attention to the need to avoid any duplication of effort.
91. The Delegation of Switzerland mentioned that the importation of exotic foods was increasing, and that it was desirable to develop for this purpose international standards, but not necessarily in a new Codex Committee. The Delegation of Switzerland thought this work could be done in the UNECE.
92. The Delegations of India, Iraq, Ireland, Netherlands, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand and Tunisia thought that the time was not yet ripe to make a decision.
93. The Observer from the EEC thought that it was not appropriate for the Codex Alimentarius Commission to start work on the development of standards for exotic fresh fruits and vegetables. This view was shared by the Delegations of Denmark, France and Italy.
94. In view of the divergence of opinion on this subject, and of the fact that most delegations were of the opinion that the time was not yet ripe to reach a decision on this matter, the Commission agreed that it would not take a decision on this matter at this time. The Commission agreed that this matter should be taken up by the Coordinating Committees and that the Secretariat should send out another circular letter with a view to obtaining more responses. The Commission agreed to discuss this matter at its next Session (see also paragraph 544).

HOSTING OF CODEX SESSIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

95. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/8 containing the replies of Thailand and Zambia, and document 83/8-Add.1 containing the reply of Cuba, to circular letters which had been issued by the Secretariat inviting developing countries to indicate whether they were interested in hosting Codex Committee Sessions.
96. The Commission noted that these two documents had been considered by the Executive Committee at its 30th Session (ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 24-25).
97. The Delegation of Thailand indicated, a propos of what was stated in the report of the Executive Committee, that Thailand would still be interested in hosting the 4th or 5th Session of the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins if suitable arrangements could be made with the host country (Canada).
98. The Delegation of Cuba confirmed that Cuba would be interested in hosting a Codex Committee Session.
99. The Delegation of Argentina confirmed that Argentina would be interested in hosting Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives or on Pesticide Residues, or on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, not forgetting other Codex Committees.
100. The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should continue to see what could be done to help matters in this area.

PROPOSAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AMEND RULE VI.3 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION

101. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/9 which traced the history of Rule VI.3 from the First Session of the Commission. This paper had been considered by the Executive Committee at its 28th Session (ALINORM 83/3, paragraphs 80-86). The Executive Committee had proposed to amend Rule VI.3, as set out in paragraph 84 of ALINORM 83/3. For easy reference, the text of the proposed amendment of Rule VI.3 was reproduced in ALINORM 83/9-Add.1.

102. The Commission noted that under Rule IV.6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission "The majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of making recommendations for amendments to the Statutes of the Commission and of adopting amendments of, or additions to, the present Rules in accordance with Rule XIII.1....."

103. As 122 countries were currently Members of the Commission, the quorum needed to amend the Rules was 62 countries. Since there were not 62 Member Countries represented at the Session, the Commission decided to postpone consideration of this subject until such time as there might be a quorum (see also paragraph 547).

PART V

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING

104. The Committee had before it the report of the last session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (ALINORM 83/22). Specific items which required further action were outlined in ALINORM 83/21.

105. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. R.H. McKay (Canada), introduced the report. He informed the Commission that considerable changes and adjustments had been made to the revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (Appendix VI) as well as to Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (Appendix IV) which had to be referred back to Member Governments. The two documents had, therefore, not been advanced to Step 8. In fact, the next session of the Committee had been extended to an eight-day session (12-21 October 1983) to enable the Committee to finalize the two texts and advance them to Step.8.

106. The Chairman of the Commission emphasized the importance especially of the General Standard, for the work on all Codex standards and urged the Committee to conclude these two above items as soon as possible.

107. Mr. McKay also gave an overview on the status of endorsements of labelling provisions in certain Codex standards at Steps 5 to 8 and indicated that further action had to be taken on a number of matters outlined below.

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Guidelines for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers
(Appendix VII to ALINORM 83/22)

108. The above guidelines had been before the Committee for some time. The 15th Session had decided that, since the guidelines were closely related to the revision of the General Standards for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods, these guidelines should be placed in the Step Procedure and developed simultaneously with the revised text of the General Standard (para. 163, ALINORM 83/22).

109. The 29th Session of the Executive Committee had agreed to regard the guidelines as being at Step 5 subject to confirmation by the Commission (paragraphs 138-139, ALINORM 83/3). Consequently, comments on the Guidelines at Step 6 had been requested by CL 1982/31.

110. A number of delegations reiterated their opinion, expressed at several previous sessions of the Committee, that there appeared to be no need to regulate at an international level the labelling of non-retail containers which were mainly intended for food manufacturers. Furthermore, it was not clear which other types of containers were to be covered by those guidelines. In many cases, the final destination of the products was not known and the requirements for labelling might, therefore, differ. They suggested that the Labelling Committee should clarify the exact scope of these guidelines.

111. Some delegations, while agreeing in principle with the opinion expressed above, felt that the most important provisions of the present guidelines could be included in some way in the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods; this referred also to products for re-packaging at the point of sale.

112. Other delegations held the view that the guidelines as presently drafted were acceptable and necessary to provide a model for rules to assist small manufacturers in complying with the detailed requirements for the labelling of pre-packaged foods.

113. One delegation drew attention to Section 1 - Scope - of the General Labelling Standard which included reference to the above guidelines. The fact that the Guidelines for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers had been proceeded with showed that the majority of delegations to the Labelling Committee had been in favour of the development of such guidelines. It was also pointed out that the Commission was lately developing more standards for semi- and unprocessed products and furthermore, several Committees had already included provisions for non-retail containers in their standards; therefore, provision for the labelling of non-retail containers was gaining greater importance in the Codex framework.

114. In conclusion, the Commission agreed that further work on the Draft Guidelines on the Labelling of Non-retail Containers at Step 5 should be suspended until the real need for such guidelines had been demonstrated. In the light of this decision, the Commission advised the Labelling Committee to review that part of Section 1 - Scope - of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods which referred to non-retail containers.

Matters Arising from the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

Amendment of Terms of Reference (para.98)

115. The Commission noted the wish of the Labelling Committee also to review, amend where necessary and endorse labelling provisions in guidelines and codes of practice.

116. The Commission agreed that clause (b) should read as follows:

- To consider, amend if necessary, and endorse draft specific provisions on labelling prepared by the Codex Committees drafting standards, codes of practice and guidelines.

Confirmation of the Committee's Interpretation of Clause (d) of Its Terms of Reference - Guidelines on Advertising of Foods (paras 118, 123-125 and 204)

117. The Committee on Labelling had been of the opinion that certain provisions in the revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods and other texts such as the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling, were also applicable to advertising,

i.e. provisions which regulated certain aspects of labelling, including claims and nutritional labelling, could apply to the label as such as well as to certain promotional material. The Committee was not certain whether its mandate extended to advertising through electronic and mass media and wished to be advised on this matter. The Committee had, meanwhile, included in its future work programme the development of guidelines on advertising.

118. The Commission was requested to confirm that clause (d) of the terms of reference, which reads as follows:

"To study problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions".

entitled the Committee to deal with advertising.

119. The Chairman of the Commission proposed that clause (d) might be amended by deleting the part of the sentence after "food". However, the Commission confirmed that clause (d) covered advertising, and recommended to the Labelling Committee to consider whether the above amendment proposed by the Chairman was considered to be necessary.

120. There was considerable discussions whether guidelines for advertising should be elaborated by the Committee on Labelling and, in particular, whether it was within the remit of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to advise on advertising matters which went beyond the accompanying material or appeared on the label of the food, for instance, advertising by electronic and mass media. Several delegations felt that this should be left to national authorities. The Delegation of India expressed the view that such advertising was done on a multi-national scale and that the definition of advertising should include mass media and electronic systems. It was concluded that the advice of FAO and WHO Legal Counsels should be sought on this question and referred to the Codex Committee on Labelling for further consideration.

121. The Chairman of the Committee reminded the Commission that many years ago, the Labelling Committee had considered an extensive paper on advertising including a draft guideline. At that time, the Committee had limited itself to establishing general principles on advertising (para. 33, ALINORM 72/22). It was now proposed that this paper be updated and extended to cover the more recent forms of advertising as well as to contain clear proposals for the scope of the proposed guidelines on advertising.

122. The Commission agreed that, based on a joint legal opinion provided by FAO/WHO and on an updated version of the paper noted in para. 121, the Codex Committee on Food Labelling should give further consideration to the subject of advertising and report back its findings to the Commission.

Review of General Guidelines on Claims with a View to Revising these Guidelines

123. The Commission noted that the Committee wished to review and possibly revise the above guidelines to include, specifically, more detailed provisions on negative claims which had been considered in connection with the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (Codex Alimentarius, Vol.VI). The Commission agreed that the Labelling Committee could proceed with the review and revision of the General Guidelines on Claims.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

124. 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

125. The Commission had before it the reports of the 15th and 16th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (ALINORM 83/12 and ALINORM 83/12A with corrigenda to the English version). The reports were introduced by Mr. A. Feberwee (Netherlands), Chairman of the Committee.

126. The Chairman gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last Session of the Commission and introduced the various standards and codes at Step 8 of the Procedure and also the specifications for food additives at Step 5. He also introduced the matter arising from the two Reports of the Codex Committee on Food Additives that would be of interest to the Commission.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt at Step 8

127. The Commission had before it the above Draft Standard (Appendix XI, ALINORM 83/12A) and the Step 8 amendments as proposed by the European Committee for the Study of Salt, the United Kingdom, Cuba and Italy (LIM.3 and LIM.12).

128. In discussing the standard, the Delegations of Thailand and India proposed that the minimum content of NaCl as contained in clause 3.1 should be reduced, the reason put forward being that purification to a level beyond 96% will increase the cost of production considerably. Several delegations were opposed to the inclusion of the long list of food additives in the standard.

129. Several delegations proposed that the level of cadmium should be reduced from the level of 0.5 to 0.2 mg/kg. The Commission was told that the few samples of salt from Europe for which analyses were available to the Codex Committee on Food Additives contained less than 0.2 mg/kg of cadmium. The Commission, however, felt that this was a technical question and that there was insufficient data available to it on which to base its decision. Some delegations had objections also to the levels of lead and mercury in Food Grade Salt.

130. The Commission, while recognizing that the levels of contaminants should be as low as possible, expressed its opinion that the levels of contaminants should be established only based on supporting data.

Status of the Standard

131. The Commission held the standard at Step 8 and asked: (i) the Codex Committee on Food Additives to re-examine the sections especially on contaminants; and (ii) other relevant Codex Committees to review the sections on labelling, food hygiene and methods of analysis with a view to endorsing them. The Commission would reconsider the standard for adoption at its next session.

132. The Commission urged: (i) such of those Governments which were concerned at the levels of contaminants in the standard to make data on the contaminant content of Food Grade Salt available to the Codex Committee on Food Additives; and (ii) JECFA to reconsider the permissible weekly intakes of cadmium and also other contaminants in the light of newer data.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Revised Draft General Standard for Irradiated Foods

133. The Commission had before it the above Draft Standard (Appendix IX, ALINORM 83/12A) and the Step 8 amendments as proposed by Norway, Federal Republic of Germany and Italy (ALINORM 83/41 - Part XIII, LIM.2 and LIM.17).

134. The Commission noted that this was only a revision of an existing standard and that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had considered two sets of Government comments before it had advanced the standard to Step 8.

135. As regards clause 2.2, the Commission noted that it should not be construed that every food should be irradiated up to 10 kGy. Much lower levels than 10 kGy could be used for effective irradiation of foods (ALINORM 83/12A, Annex B to Appendix IX).

136. The Commission noted that the word "shall" in clause 3.1 would make it mandatory for all those Member Governments accepting the standard to apply the Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene and Codes of Hygienic Practice to foods that were irradiated. Since the Codes of Practice and Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene had been meant to remain advisory, the Commission agreed that the use of the word "should" would be more appropriate bearing in mind that irradiation should not be used as a substitute for good manufacturing practice.

137. The wholesomeness of foods irradiated up to a maximum absorbed dose of 10 kGy had been clearly established by the FAO/WHO/IAEA Expert Committee (Wholesomeness of Irradiated Foods, WHO Technical Report Series No. 659, WHO, Geneva, 1981) and the process of irradiation had been cleared of any microbiological hazards by a meeting of the Board of the International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene of the International Union of Microbiological Sciences held in Copenhagen in 1982 (for details see report CX/FH 83/9).

138. Many countries felt that there was an urgent need for the standard, which they would like to use, and expressed their opinion that the standard should be adopted as a Codex Standard at Step 8.

139. The Delegations of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany and India opposed the omission of Steps 6 and 7 for several reasons, not least of which was that labelling provisions, which were an important aspect of the standard, were still under revision, and, in their opinion, the technological necessity for irradiation of foods had not been sufficiently demonstrated. The Delegation of Italy also requested that, in any case, the treatment by irradiation should be clearly indicated on the label. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that it was against the adoption of the standard, as had been indicated in its written comments.

Status of the Standard

140. The Commission, noting that there had already been two rounds of Government comments, adopted the standard at Step 8 as Codex Standard with the change that in clause 3.1 the word "shall" is replaced by "should".

141. The Delegations of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany expressed their reservations.

Consideration at Steps 5 and 8 of Revised Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities for the Treatment of Foods

Status of the Code

142. The Commission, noting that there had also been two rounds of Government comments, adopted the Revised Code of Practice for the Operation of Radiation Facilities for the Treatment of Foods, as contained in Appendix IX, ALINORM 83/12A at Step 8. The Delegations of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany expressed their reservations.

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

143. The Commission adopted the specifications in categories I and II of Appendix X, ALINORM 83/12 and Appendix XII of ALINORM 83/12A at Step 8 as advisory texts not subject to acceptance.

Status and Safety Aspects of Food Additive Specifications

144. The Commission noted that it had discussed the status and safety aspects of food additive specifications at its last (14th) Session (ALINORM 81/39, paragraphs 201-205) and had agreed with the conclusion of the Codex Committee on General Principles that the specifications per se were advisory and not subject to government acceptance but, however, had agreed to consider the subject of the role of the specifications in relation to food additive provisions in Codex Standards at its next session when guidance from JECFA and CCFA was available.

145. The views expressed by CCFA at its 15th Session and JECFA at its 26th Session on the status and safety of Codex specifications were sent to Governments by CL 1982/42-FA for comments and an analysis of the replies received from Australia, Spain, United Kingdom and the European Economic Community, documented in ALINORM 83/11 and ALINORM 83/11 Addenda 1 and 2 had shown that they were in complete agreement with the views of CCFA and JECFA. The Executive Committee also agreed with the views of CCFA and JECFA (ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 26-29).

146. The Commission, having noted the agreement of the Executive Committee and the different Governments that responded to the Circular Letter 1982/42-FA to the views of CCFA and JECFA, agreed that:

- (i) Codex Specifications are advisory and not subject to Government acceptance, and
- (ii) Food Grade Quality is achieved by compliance with the specifications as a whole and not merely with individual criteria in terms of safety.

147. The above decisions of the Commission would be incorporated into the Codex Alimentarius as appropriate.

148. The Commission expressed the opinion that since CCFA reviews and elaborates specifications, they are subject to endorsement even if they are advisory and not subject to acceptance. Thus it did not agree with the CCFA's proposal to amend the format for Codex Commodity Standards as contained in the Procedural Manual of the Codex (see ALINORM 83/12, Appendix X, paragraph 8).

Procedure for Elaboration of Codex Specifications

149. The Commission

- (i) noted that the countries which had responded to the CL 1982/42 and the Executive Committee at its 30th Session (ALINORM 83/4) were in complete agreement with the modified procedure proposed by CCFA for the elaboration of Codex Specifications (ALINORM 83/12, Appendix X, Annex 1),
- (ii) recognized the principle that CCFA was the final authority to recommend specifications to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption, and
- (iii) adopted the modified procedure as a legal text.

150. The modified procedure which is given below will now replace the existing procedure for elaboration of Codex Specifications as laid down in page 40 of the English version of the 5th edition of the Procedural Manual.

Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Advisory Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives 1/

Step 1: The Secretariat distributes the specifications, when available from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), and requests comments from Governments and interested international organizations.

Step 2: The Secretariat forwards any comments received to the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The specifications are considered, in the light of these comments, by the Codex Committee on Food Additives. Specifications not considered to be suitable for adoption by the Commission are referred to JECFA, together with government comments and the views of CCFA, for expert advice or revision if appropriate. If the JECFA specifications are still not considered suitable they may be modified by CCFA.

Step 3: Specifications which, in the opinion of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, are suitable for final adoption as Codex Advisory Specifications for Food Additives, are submitted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption. Specifications shall not be subject to Government acceptance.

151. The Commission decided not to remove the word "Advisory" from the title since, unlike Codex Codes of Practice, it was not sufficiently understood that Codex Specifications are advisory.

Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the 15th and 16th Sessions of the Committee

152. The Commission had before it ALINORM 83/21 containing other matters arising from the Reports of the 15th and 16th Sessions of the Committee, which were of interest to the Commission.

Guidelines for the Establishment of Food Additive Provisions in Commodity Standards

153. The Commission agreed with CCFA that the Codex General Principles for the Use of Food Additives (CAC Procedural Manual 4th edition, page 19 of English version) and paragraph 13b of the Guidelines for Codex Commodity Committees Concerning Food Additives (Procedural Manual, 5th edition) contained all the information which was needed by Codex Commodity Committees in establishing food additive provisions in Codex Standards and that there was no need to elaborate separate Guidelines for Commodity Committees to establish food additive provisions for the Commodity Standards. Any further guidance addressing the questions need not be subjected to formal procedures in their elaboration and should be regarded as an internal document for use by the Codex Committees concerned.

154. The Commission also agreed that Guidance to Codex Commodity Committees concerning the establishment of provisions for food additives (ALINORM 83/12A, Appendix IV) be included in both the Procedural Manual and the Codex Alimentarius and brought to the attention of Codex Commodity Committees and their Chairmen, Codex Contact Points and other interested bodies.

1/ Formerly known as Codex Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives.

Actions needed by CCFA resulting from a change in ADI Status of Food Additives

155. The Commission agreed with the action taken by CCFA (ALINORM 83/12A, para.111) to change the endorsement status of certain food additives to be in line with their revised ADI status.

Residues in Food of Chemicals Used in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine

156. The Commission noted that the Codex Committees on Food Additives, Meat Hygiene and Pesticide Residues had discussed the need to consider the question of residues in foods of various chemicals arising from their use in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine. The Commission examined the views of the Executive Committee as to what mechanisms would be required to handle this subject within the Codex.

157. Whilst recognizing that the terms of reference of the CCFA would cover the matter of residues in food of chemicals used in animal husbandry and veterinary medicine, the Commission was of the opinion that it would probably overload the programme of work of the CCFA, which was already very heavy, if the Committee was to embark on the consideration of these matters. Furthermore, because of the complexity and special nature of the subject, the Commission felt that a review of the subject and advice as to how the Codex Alimentarius should handle the subject could not be satisfactorily undertaken by a single consultant as had been suggested by the CCFA.

158. The Commission was of the opinion that the subject was urgent and timely and favoured the suggestion of the Executive Committee that the subject should first be examined by a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation and that the recommendations of the consultation might then be considered by the Commission and be acted upon by a newly established Codex Committee, if appropriate.

159. The Commission requested the Secretariat to take any preliminary steps necessary to enable the setting up of a new Codex Committee should this be decided by the Commission at its 16th Session.

160. The Delegations of Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany indicated their willingness to sympathetically examine hosting of a new Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, if established.

161. The Delegation of the Netherlands emphasized that the consumer protection aspects, in addition to safety, would be an important part of the terms of reference for the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation.

162. The Commission requested the Secretariat to arrange for an FAO/WHO Expert Consultation at an early date and for its recommendations and report to be distributed to members of the Commission. The Commission further requested the Secretariat, in order to facilitate the setting up of a new Codex Committee if required, to approach the Host Government of the Codex Committee on Meat which had been adjourned sine die and had not met for at least ten years to agree to its abolition.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

163. 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

164. The Commission had before it the reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (ALINORM 83/24 and Add.1 and ALINORM 83/24A and Add.1). It also had before it a document (ALINORM 83/24 Add.2) prepared by the Secretariat to assist the Commission in its deliberations and a list of recommendations

of the Committee on behalf of the Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries (ALINORM 83/24 Add.3). Amendments proposed to maximum residue limits (MRLs) at Steps 5 and 8 were contained in documents ALINORM 83/14 - Part VII, LIM.7(PR) and LIM.15(PR).

165. The reports were introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Ir. A.J. Pieters, who pointed out that participation in the Committee was increasing indicating that pesticide residues in food continued to arouse public interest. There was a need to respect the Good Agricultural Practices of countries producing the foods to which the pesticides were applied. He drew the attention of the Commission to the recommendations of the Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries. Work on the harmonization of pesticide residue limits did not only involve agreement on numerical figures but also on other aspects, such as methods of analysis, definition of the portion of the food to which the limits applied and other such matters.

166. The Chairman of the Committee stressed the need for the Governments to accept the responsibility of making the necessary administrative and legal arrangements to accept the recommendations of the Commission in the field of pesticide residues in food. This was the only way to justify the expenditure of the effort in arriving at recommendations for safe limits for pesticide residues in food.

Consideration of Maximum Residue Limits at Steps 8 and 5 (with omission of Steps 6 and 7)

(a) General Discussion on Temporary MRLs and Withdrawal of MRLs

167. Before embarking on a discussion of these MRLs, the Commission decided to address the problem of the establishment of temporary MRLs and the withdrawal of Codex MRLs where ADIs had been withdrawn by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues.

168. The Commission was informed about the recommendation of the Committee that, in the future, temporary MRLs should not be submitted to the Commission for adoption at Step 8. The Commission concurred with this recommendation of the Committee. As regards the question of what action should be taken concerning the withdrawal of Codex MRLs or Codex temporary MRLs, where ADIs had been withdrawn, the Commission concurred with the recommendation of the 30th Session of the Executive Committee that this matter be examined by FAO and WHO so that policy guidance could be offered to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and also to the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues so that a mechanism for dealing with such situations could be worked out. The Commission agreed to consider this question at its next Session. The Delegation of Thailand was of the opinion that this matter should also be considered by the Coordinating Committees.

169. As regards the existing temporary Codex MRLs or Codex MRLs which might become temporary as a result of decisions of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, the Commission agreed that such temporary Codex MRLs should continue to be listed in the Codex Alimentarius pending clarification of the toxicological status of the pesticide.

170. The Commission noted that a number of pesticides for which MRLs had been submitted by the Committee at Step 8 (and Step 5 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7) had been given temporary ADIs by recent Sessions of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. It was decided that the MRLs of these pesticides (see ALINORM 83/24A Add.2) should not be sent to Governments for acceptance, i.e. should not be included in the Codex Alimentarius, after their adoption by the Commission at Step 8. As soon as the temporary MRLs were converted by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues into MRLs on the advice of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, the Secretariat should include the MRLs in the Codex Alimentarius.

(b) Maximum Residue Limits at Step 8 contained in Appendix VII, ALINORM 83/24 and Appendix X, ALINORM 83/24A

171. The Commission proceeded to discuss the MRLs contained in the above Appendices, in the light of ALINORM 83/24A, Corrigendum, and in the light of proposed amendments contained in the documents indicated in paragraph 164 above.

172. Prior to the discussion of the various pesticides, some Members of the Commission stated that their position concerning the acceptance of Codex maximum residue limits adopted by the Commission would depend on consideration concerning toxicological aspects of residues, the good agricultural practices and dietary habits prevailing in their countries. This was essential to safeguard the population in respect of toxic residues present in staple foods.

173. The Delegation of Switzerland drew attention to the continued use of technical HCH instead of lindane. This did not represent Good Agricultural Practice as the technical material contained inactive isomers of dubious safety. The Secretariat pointed out that this matter had been discussed by the Codex Committee and represented a problem which ought to be seen in relation to technical and economic assistance to developing countries.

174. The Delegation of Canada indicated that certain pesticides based on unreliable toxicological data were under study in that country and that MRLs for such pesticides would not be accepted by Canada until the matter had been clarified on the basis of suitable replacement studies.

175. A number of delegations stated that they had objections with regard to some of the proposed limits and that they had presented written comments on this matter.

176. Following discussion of the individual pesticides, the Commission decided as follows (following correction on the basis of ALINORM 83/24A Corrigendum):

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Pesticide</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Decision of the Commission</u>
037	fenitrothion	Appendix VII, ALINORM 83/24	Held at Step 8 (see para 170)
081	chlorothalonil		
089	sec. butylamine		
091	cyanofenphos		
095	acephate		
057	paraquat		
011	carbophenothion	Appendix VII, ALINORM 83/24	Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs.
048	lindane		
074	disulfoton		
096	carbofuran		
097	cartap		
099	edifenphos		
004	bromophos	Appendix X, ALINORM 83/24A	Adopted by the MRL of 2 mg/kg for citrus fruit as Codex MRL. All others returned to Step 7.
008	carbaryl		
011	carbophenothion		

Code No.	Pesticide	Reference	Decision of the Commission
016	chlorobenzilate	Appendix X, ALINORM 83/24A	Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs (DDT, temporary limits pending further residue data)
020	2,4-D		
021	DDT		Returned to Step 7. Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs.
022	diazinon		
031	diquat		
039	fenthion		
048	lindane		
074	disulfoton		
076	thiometon	Appendix X, ALINORM 83/24A	Advanced to Step 6.
085	fenamiphos		Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs.
090	chlorpyrifos-methyl		Adopted at Step 8 except forage crops which was returned to Step 7.
103	phosmet		
109	fenbutatin oxide	Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs	
114	guazatine		
117	aldicarb	Adopted at Step 8 as Codex MRLs except bananas advanced to Step 6.	
121	2,4,5-T		
101	pirimicarb	beans, 1 mg/kg	Agreed to submit to Governments for acceptance (para. 136 ALINORM 83/24A).

177. The following statements were made in connection with some of the pesticides discussed above:

011 carbophenothion - The Delegation of Switzerland, supported by the Observer from the EEC, considered that the use pattern of this pesticide was very wide considering the low ADI.

074 disulfoton - See general statement by some delegations in paragraph 172 of this report.

074 disulfoton - The Delegation of Canada expressed reservations pending questions relating to the toxicity of the pesticide being clarified.

096 carbofuran - The Delegation of Canada, supported by the Delegation of France, indicated their reservations pending the results of further toxicological studies being evaluated.

004 bromophos - The Delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy were of the opinion that, in view of the increasing consumption of foods containing bran, the proposed MRL was too high.

011 carbophenothion - Several countries objected to the excessively wide use pattern of this pesticide, in view of the very low ADI. The Secretariat pointed out that actual use patterns, and therefore intake, varied from country to country and that Codex MRLs did not imply a recommendation for use. The Commission requested the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to re-examine the actual use pattern of this pesticide.

016 chlorobenzilate - The Delegation of Switzerland indicated that there was suspicion of the carcinogenicity of this compound. The Commission requested Switzerland to submit the relevant data to the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. Several delegations indicated that neither locally produced nor imported foods were ever found to exceed 1 mg/kg. This suggested that the Codex MRLs were too high.

021 DDT - The Delegation of Iran had reservations regarding the MRL for cereal grains. Other delegations indicated that, in view of the severe restrictions of the use of DDT, the setting of Codex MRLs covering wide groups of food did not seem appropriate.

031 diquat - The Delegation of Italy considered the MRL in wheat flour too high.

039 fenthion - The Delegation of Greece, supported by the Observer from the EEC, indicated the need for Codex MRLs for olives and olive oil.

048 lindane - See discussion on use of technical HCH (paragraph 173 of this report).

117 aldicarb - The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany was against the MRL for bananas, especially because of some uncertainties in the toxicological evaluation of aldicarb and the consumption of this food by infants and children. Similar remarks were made by the Delegation of Finland. The MRL for bananas was advanced to Step 6 without omitting any Steps.

121 2,4,5-T - The Delegation of the USA indicated that it had residue data on cereals and cereal straw. Residues in animal feed could have an effect on other MRLs. The Commission decided not to omit Steps and requested the USA to make the data available to the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues.

Reconsideration of MRLs held at Step 8 by the 14th Session of the Commission

178. At its 14th Session, the Commission held the MRLs of certain pesticides at Step 8 of the Procedure pending doubts concerning the reliability of certain toxicological data being clarified by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (see paragraph (e), ALINORM 83/24A Add.2). As the matter had been reviewed by the 1981 and 1982 Joint Meetings on Pesticide Residues, the Commission decided to reconsider the MRLs in question. In keeping with the decision concerning temporary MRLs, the Commission decided as follows:

<u>Pesticide</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Decision</u>
095 acephate 006 captafol 007 captan 081 chlorothalonil 037 fenitrothion 100 methamidophos 057 paraquat	ALINORM 81/24- ADD.1	Held at Step 8 as temporary MRLs
096 carbofuran 031 diquat 074 disulfoton 085 fenamiphos 113 propargite	ALINORM 81/24- ADD.1 ALINORM 83/24A	Agreed that the MRLs should be included in the Codex Alimentarius
098 dialifos	ALINORM 81/24- ADD.1	To be returned to the CCPR

Consideration of Proposed Substantive and Non-substantive Amendments to Codex Maximum Residue Limits

179. The Commission had before it proposed amendments, at Steps 5 and 8, as well as non-substantive changes to Codex MRLs contained in Appendix XI to ALINORM 83/24A. It was agreed to consider the amendments in the light of ALINORM 83/24A, Corrigendum and of proposed amendments at Step 8 contained in ALINORM 83/41 - Part VII, LIM.7(PR) and LIM.15(PR).

180. The Delegation of India expressed the opinion that it was not appropriate to increase the MRL for fenitrothion in wheat-flour threefold in view of the fact that the ADI of the pesticide had been decreased from 0.005 to 0.001 mg/kg body-weight by the 1982 Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The Commission also noted the written objection of the Delegations of Czechoslovakia and Finland to increase the MRL for trichlorfon in apples and strawberries, respectively.

181. The Commission reached the following decisions:

- (a) All proposed changes marked as being non-substantive were adopted except for the amendment proposed for dichlofluanid in barley, oats, rye and wheat. The latter was considered to be substantive which should follow the amendment procedure (i.e. sent to Governments at Step 3);
- (b) the proposed amendments at Step 8 were adopted as Codex MRLs;
- (c) the proposed amendments at Step 5 were advanced to Step 6; and
- (d) the question whether the Codex MRLs for coumaphos should be converted into Guideline Levels was referred back to the Committee for further consideration in the light of the decision of the Commission, given in paragraph 168 of this report.

Consideration of Proposed Maximum Residue Limits at Step 5

182. The Commission noted the corrigenda given in ALINORM 83/24A Add.2 and decided to advance the draft MRLs contained in ALINORM 83/24A Add.1 to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Consideration of "Portion of Commodities to which Codex Maximum Residue Limits apply and which is analysed"

183. The Commission had before it the above document given in Appendix VII to ALINORM 83/24A and proposals for amendments at Step 8 in ALINORM 83/41 - Part VII.

184. The question was raised as to the status of the document in relation to the acceptance procedure. The Chairman of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues expressed the opinion that, as the document would need to be up-dated from time to time, it should not be given such a status as would require lengthy amendment procedures, i.e. should not be subject to formal acceptance by Governments.

185. The Commission endorsed the above document and decided to return to the question of its status at the next Session.

Methods of Pesticide Residue Analysis

186. The Commission noted the methods of residue analysis recommended by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), through the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Analysis (ALINORM 83/24 Add.1), and agreed that they represented very useful work which should be continued. It also noted that the methods, up-dated by the 1982 Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, had been published by GIFAP (Technical Monograph No. 8).

Matters Arising from the Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the Committee

187. It was noted that the questions relating to the elaboration of temporary Codex MRLs and the consequences of the withdrawal of ADIs, or temporary ADIs, as well as the issue relating to chemicals used in mass medication of food-producing animals had been dealt with under earlier agenda items (see paragraphs 156 and 167 of this report).

Recommendations of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries

188. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/24A Add.3 prepared by the Secretariat on the request of the 14th Session of the CCPR. The document summarized all previous recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group. The Commission noted the request of the Committee that the recommendations should be referred to the interested organizations at the highest possible level. The Secretariat pointed out that both FAO and WHO had responded to the recommendations and several of the recommendations either had been, or would be, implemented.

189. The Delegation of India, supported by the Delegations of Saudi Arabia, Cameroon, Cuba and Kenya, expressed the view that the generation of appropriate residue and other data for pesticides in developing countries represented an important need which could only be achieved through the establishment of the necessary laboratory facilities. Existing projects designed to provide such technical assistance should be promoted and further projects initiated. It was essential that, through assistance, developing countries be in a position to ensure the safe and effective use of pesticides. Recommendation 3 was, therefore, considered to be of particular importance.

190. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Committee and of the Ad Hoc Working Group, as contained in ALINORM 83/24 Add.3 and requested the Secretariat to bring them to the attention of the interested bodies.

191. The Delegation of Sweden informed the Commission that it would distribute to Governments, through the Codex system, copies of a publication entitled "Control of Pesticide Residues in Food - Guide to National Authorities and International Organizations", prepared by the Swedish National Food Administration.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

192. 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

193. The Commission had before it the Report of the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (ALINORM 83/13) which was introduced by the rapporteur, Dr. R.W. Weik (USA) who gave a brief review of the current work programme of the CCFH.

194. The Commission noted that the Committee would examine at its next session Annex C of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat Products which had been revised at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products.

195. It also noted that Section 5.2 - Microbiological Requirements of the Codex European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters required, in the opinion of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Europe and the EEC, further examination. An Ad Hoc Working Group of the Coordinating Committee had proposed amendments to Section 5.2 which would be fully discussed at the next session of the CCFH.

196. Other items to be considered at the 19th Session of the CCFH included a Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Salvaging of Damaged Canned Goods and a revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Egg Products to include "melange".

Consideration of Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk and Annex I "Draft Microbiological Criteria for Dried Milk Products" at Step 8

197. The Commission noted that the above Code and Annex had been examined in detail by the CCFH at its 18th Session. In addition, Annex I had been considered by an Ad Hoc Working Group of the CCFH. It also noted that two provisions might be amended as a result of future consideration by other Committees. These were the definitions for "pasteurization" (2.9) and "lot" (7.5.5) which would be discussed at the next sessions of the "Milk Committee" and the CCFH respectively.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk and Annex I

198. The Commission agreed to adopt the Code of Hygienic Practice for Dried Milk and Annex 1 - Microbiological Criteria for Dried Milk Products at Step 8 of the Procedure, on the understanding that the two definitions mentioned in para. 197 above might require amendment.

Consideration of Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs at Step 8

199. The Commission noted that the CCFH had made no change to the text which was already adopted at Step 5 at its 14th Session.

200. The Delegation of India referred to several technical matters in provisions which it considered still required examination. The Commission noted that these matters had for the most part been discussed during the elaboration of the Draft Code by the CCFH and decided to make no change to the text. However, it was always open to any country to propose amendments at any time to adopted codes.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Processing of Frog Legs

201. The Commission decided to adopt the above Code of Hygienic Practice at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters at Step 5

202. The Commission noted that the above Draft Code had been discussed and amended by an Ad Hoc Working Group of the CCFH. The Draft Code was now submitted to the Commission at Step 5 for further government comments.

Status of the Proposed Draft Code

203. The Commission decided to advance the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for the Collecting, Processing and Marketing of Natural Mineral Waters to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

204. 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

205. The Commission had before it the report of the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (ALINORM 83/23). The Delegation of Hungary in introducing the report of the Committee, outlined the work accomplished by the 13th

Session of the Committee. The wide range of responsibilities of the Committee had necessitated the establishment of two Ad Hoc Working Groups. Apart from its normal function of endorsing and developing Codex methods, the Committee had elaborated General Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures to serve as a framework for the inclusion of provisions for sampling procedures in Codex Standards. The Committee had also discussed the question of sampling for net weight determination. It had also discussed the obligation falling on governments accepting Codex methods included in Codex standards.

206. The Committee was conscious of its coordinating role in the field of analysis and sampling. In order to discharge this responsibility effectively, the Membership of the Interagency Meetings, held in conjunction with Sessions of the Committee, had been widened. These meetings were proving an effective means of avoiding duplication of work and ensuring cooperation between International Organizations and Codex.

General Principles for the Establishment or Selection of Codex Sampling Procedures

207. The Commission adopted the above General Principles contained in Appendix IV, ALINORM 83/23 for inclusion in the Procedural Manual. The Delegation of Portugal pointed out that there was a need to develop further Codex sampling procedures, involving sampling inspection by variables.

Meaning of Acceptance of Codex Methods of Analysis

208. As regards the question of obligation falling on Governments in respect of the acceptance of Codex methods included in Codex standards, the Commission concurred with the view of the Committee that Codex Type I (i.e. "defining") methods should be accepted by Governments together with the provision they defined. This did not mean, however, that Codex defining methods should be used at all times in food control as explained in para (1) of Appendix II to ALINORM 83/23.

209. The Commission also agreed with the Committee's conclusion that Codex Type IV (i.e. "tentative") methods should not be adopted as Codex methods until the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had recognized their reliability on the basis of the appropriate Codex criteria. It was noted that the question of obligation falling on Governments in accepting Codex Type II (reference) and Type III (alternative approved) methods was still open.

General Methods for Contaminants at Step 8

210. The Commission considered a list of general methods proposed by the Committee for various metallic contaminants such as arsenic, cadmium, lead and zinc in the light of proposed amendments at Step 8 (Appendix III, ALINORM 83/23 and ALINORM 83/41 - Part XII).

211. The Delegation of Tanzania made the point that a number of the methods referred to in Codex documents were not readily available and caused difficulties for laboratories, especially in developing countries. The Secretariat informed the Commission that a consultant had been hired to review existing Codex methods. This review included an identification of such methods as mentioned by the Delegation of Tanzania. Following the consultant's report all efforts would be made to ensure that methods included in the Codex Alimentarius by reference, would be available to the interested parties. It was not possible, at this stage, to indicate exactly how this would be achieved.

212. The Commission adopted the General Methods as Type II or III Codex methods as indicated in Appendix III, ALINORM 83/23.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

213. 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 VI

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

214. The Delegate of Kenya, Mr. N.M. Masai, informed the Commission that for pressing reasons, it had not been possible for the Coordinator for Africa, Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya), to attend the present session of the Commission.

215. As regards the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa, the Commission noted that preparations were well in hand and that the session was scheduled to be held from 31 October to 5 November 1983, in Nairobi. The Delegate of Kenya invited members of the region and other members of the Commission to make an effort to attend the session.

Appointment of a Coordinator for Africa

216. On a proposal of the members of the region of Africa attending the session, the Commission, in accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure, re-appointed for a second term Dr. J.K. Misoi (Kenya) as Coordinator for Africa, to serve from the end of the Fifteenth Session to the end of the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

217. The Commission had before it the Report of the 3rd Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 83/15) which had been held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in February 1982. The report was introduced by the Coordinator for Asia, Prof. A. Bhumiratana of Thailand, who 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.

Importance of More Acceptances of Codex Standards by Importing Countries

218. The Commission noted that it had had a lengthy discussion on this subject while discussing Agenda Item 4 (paragraphs 20-49) and, therefore, did not pursue the subject further at this time.

Reconsideration of the Subject of Content and Layout of Codex Standards and Related Questions of General Acceptability of the Standards

219. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/36, which had been prepared by India.

220. In introducing the paper, the Delegation of India expressed the opinion that quality criteria like styles, cuts, defects, etc., incorporated in certain Codex standards, especially those for processed fruits and vegetables and fish and fishery products, could possibly give rise to difficulties in international trade, which could be contrary to one of the main objectives of the programme. The quality criteria did not, in any way, pose a health hazard and should be made "optional", subject to mutual agreement between the importer and exporter. The Delegation of India thought that the

inclusion of more details in the standard, of a kind which were not health related, could possibly have an adverse effect on trade in commodities, especially exports from developing countries. All safety requirements like hygiene, food additives and contaminants should be made mandatory and the rest optional.

221. It was stated that, by not separating the criteria into mandatory and optional characteristics, international trade could be hindered.

222. The views expressed by the Delegation of India were, to a certain extent, shared by the Delegations of France and Switzerland.

223. The Commission agreed that the labelling aspects of a standard, though not health related, should be considered as an indispensable part of the standard, since they were essential for the protection of the consumer.

224. The Commission expressed the opinion that the problem raised by India was a fundamental issue, which needed to be considered in depth. The Commission decided, therefore, to take no decision on this matter at this time, and considered that the problem should be rediscussed as a general issue by the next (16th) Session of the Commission.

225. The Commission agreed that the subject should also be discussed by the Codex Committees on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Fish and Fishery Products and expressed the view that it was important that there should be adequate representation from developing countries at these sessions.

226. The Commission suggested the following sequence of action:

(a) The Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Fish and Fishery Products should discuss the subject of whether too much detail by way of quality attributes in Codex standards could result in difficulties from an international trade point of view. The discussion should be on the basis of ALINORM 83/36 and on the basis of papers to be prepared by India highlighting the problems especially in trade with: (i) Processed Fruits and Vegetables and (ii) Fish and Fishery Products, and indicating the particular provisions in the Codex standards where there was a need for modification.

(b) The midterm session of the Executive Committee was requested to discuss the subject in the light of views expressed by CCPFV and CCFPP and also in the light of a paper to be prepared by the Secretariat on this subject.

(c) The Report of the Executive Committee and the paper prepared by the Secretariat should be sent to all Governments well ahead of the next (16th) session of the Commission for comments.

(d) The subject would be discussed by the Commission at its next session.

Amendments Proposed by the Committee to Certain Codex Standards

227. The Commission noted that the amendments proposed by the Committee concerned: (i) certain Codex standards on processed fruits and vegetables (a) canned pineapple, (b) canned fruit cocktail and (c) canned peas; (ii) certain fruit juices, (a) pineapple juice, (b) canned apple juice and (c) canned grape juice; and (iii) canned sardines.

228. As regards amendments to certain clauses in the standard in order to make them optional, the Commission postponed action pending the outcome of discussions at its next (16th) session on the subject of whether some parts of standards should be optional.

229. As regards amendments to food additive provisions in processed fruits and vegetables, the Commission referred the amendments to the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

230. The Commission agreed with the views of CCFA, as regards the Coordinating Committee's wish to: (i) have the endorsement status for the provision of tin (250 mg/kg) in canned pineapple, canned fruit cocktail, canned peas and canned pineapple juice, changed from "temporarily endorsed" to "endorsed", that actions should not be taken until health related problems due to excessive intakes of tin were clarified by JECFA.

231. As regards the amendment to the standard for canned fruit cocktail to extend the list of fruits to include certain tropical fruits, the Commission noted that the CCPFV at its 16th Session did not agree with the amendment since canned fruit cocktail is a well established product of well known composition (see paragraphs 302 and 303 for further discussion on the subject).

232. The Commission agreed that there was a need and referred the amendment proposed by the Coordinating Committee for the maximum level for tin in canned apple juice and canned grape juice to be increased from 150 mg/kg to 250 mg/kg to the joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices.

233. The Commission referred the proposal of the Coordinating Committee that the clause on organoleptic properties in the standards for pineapple juice, apple juice and grape juice, all preserved by physical means, be amended to read as "Natural volatile pineapple juice/apple juice/grape juice components may be restored to any of the juices, from which only the natural volatile juice components have been lost during processing" to the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices in order to determine whether there is a need for such an amendment.

234. The Commission noted the action taken by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products which agreed to consider the proposal of the Coordinating Committee to include the species Sardine Sardinella (Sp) in the product definition in the standard on canned sardines, when the required information, as outlined in para. 111 of ALINORM 79/18, was provided to it by the Committee. The Delegation of India agreed to make the required information available to the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (see also paragraphs 342-343).

Amendments Proposed by India and Iraq to General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils

235. The Commission postponed the discussion of the agenda item to Agenda Item 21 (see paragraph 281).

Other Matters Arising from the Report of the 3rd Session of the Coordinating Committee

236. Nil.

Appointment of Coordinator for Asia

237. On the proposal of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Commission, in accordance with Rule II.4(b) of the Rules of Procedure, re-appointed Prof. A. Bhumiratana (Thailand) as Coordinator for Asia, to serve for a second term from the end of the 15th Session to the end of the 16th Session of the Commission.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

238. The Commission had before it the report of the 13th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe (ALINORM 83/19) and additional information on matters which required action as contained in ALINORM 83/21.

239. The Coordinator for Europe and Chairman of the Committee, Professor Dr. H. Woidich (Austria) introduced the report and outlined the most important items which had been discussed at the 13th Session. The Committee had appreciated the arrangements made by the Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses to enforce Codex work on nutritional aspects. The Committee was satisfied that work was commencing in the Committee on Food Additives on certain aspects of migrating agents from packaging materials.

240. The Chairman informed the Commission that the Committee had deferred further work on a possible amendment of the Codex Standard for Fruit Cocktail and on Size Grading of Peas until further data on these matters were forthcoming.

241. He also stated that the Committee had discussed in detail the Draft European Regional Standard for Vinegar at Step 7 with special emphasis on scope, raw materials, types of vinegar, additives and contaminants. In order to give non-European members of the Commission an opportunity to have their comments fully discussed, the standard was returned to Step 6 of the Procedure.

242. A draft of a European Regional Standard for Mayonnaise had been before the Committee which had taken a fundamental decision that the standard should cover at present high fat content products. A Working Group had met during the present session of the Commission and had elaborated a revised text. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the members of that group and informed the Commission that the revised text was being sent out at Step 3 to governments for comments.

243. The Commission noted that already for some time the Committee had worked very actively on acceptances of Codex standards in the European Region, with the aim of achieving better harmonization of European food legislation. Indeed the Committee looked upon itself as a forum for discussing difficulties arising in connection with acceptances of Codex standards. Comparative studies had been prepared and continued to be prepared for standards elaborated by UNECE, EEC, CMEA and OECD.

244. The Chairman expressed his appreciation of the initiative taken by the WHO European Regional Office and Hungary in providing comprehensive information on food control, monitoring and coordination of food legislation in countries of the region.

Matters arising from the Report of the 13th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe

Further Consideration of Clause (d) of the Proposed Terms of Reference of the Committee (paras. 14-24)

245. The Committee had complied with the request of the 14th Session of the Commission to give further consideration to Clause (d) of its proposed terms of reference, which reads: "develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra-regional trade". The Committee had held the view that the following wording was more suitable for the particular situation in Europe: "develops regional standards for food products of particular interest for intra-regional trade". In view of the fact that the Commission had been requested by the 29th Session of the Executive Committee to consider amending Rule VI.3 which was related to the problem, The Committee had decided to await the outcome of the Commission's decision on Rule VI.3

246. The Chairman of the Committee recalled that the Commission had not yet decided on the amendment of Rule VI.3 (Item 10) and proposed therefore that the Committee should be advised to defer further consideration of clause (d) of its terms of reference until

the Commission had decided on the amendment of Rule VI.3. The Commission agreed with the Chairman's proposal.

Carry-over Principle (para.31)

247. The Commission was informed that the Committee had concluded that the carry-over principle appeared to be not relevant to the standards elaborated so far by the Committee.

248. The Commission noted the decision by the Coordinating Committee for Europe and agreed that a relevant note be included in Volumes of the Codex Alimentarius concerned (Volumes II and XII).

Proposed Amendment of the European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters (paras.33-34)

249. The Chairman informed the Commission that the European Regional Standard for Natural Mineral Waters had been published in Volume XII of the Codex Alimentarius. The sections on Hygiene (Section 5.2 - Microbiological Criteria) and on Methods of Analysis and Sampling had to be completed. A provision for microbiological specifications had been elaborated and would be submitted to the Committee on Hygiene for endorsement. In view of the substantial nature of the amendment, it had been proposed to develop Section 5.2 (Microbiological Specifications) in the Step Procedure for the Amendment of Codex Standards.

250. The Commission approved that the Amendment Procedure should be set in motion and the proposed amendment as contained in para. 34 be considered to be at Step 3 of the Procedure. The Commission noted that in the French version the term "bottling" had been erroneously replaced by "boiling" and instructed the Secretariat to correct the error.

Appointment of Coordinator for Europe (paras.170-175)

251. The Commission was informed that the Coordinator for Europe, Professor Dr. Woidich (Austria), having served two terms, was not eligible for re-election. The Committee at its 13th Session had discussed this matter with a view to nominating a new Coordinator for appointment by the Commission.

252. Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland) and Mr. O. Riedl (Austria) had been proposed. Both Austria and Switzerland had expressed their willingness to host sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Europe. The Committee had decided that the members of the Region of Europe would, during the 15th Session of the Commission, decide on a proposal for the next Coordinator for Europe to be appointed by the Commission. Mr. Riedl had indicated, in the meantime, that he would prefer to see Mr. Rossier nominated. All members of the European Region attending the session of the Commission, supported a nomination of Mr. P. Rossier.

253. The Commission appointed Mr. P. Rossier (Switzerland) in accordance with Rule II.4(b) Coordinator for Europe to serve from the end of the 15th Session to the end of the 16th Session of the Commission. Mr. Rossier accepted the appointment and expressed the hope that he would be able to assure continuity in the high quality of work which had been carried out under the many years of Professor Dr. Woidich's tenure of office. Mr. Rossier indicated that the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Europe would be held in Switzerland and the exact date and venue would be communicated in due course after consultation with the Commission's Secretariat.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA

254. The Commission was informed that there had been no meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America between the 14th and the 15th Sessions of the Commission. The Third Session was to have taken place in Montevideo in December 1982, but due to circumstances advised by the Government of Uruguay the session had to be postponed and later had to be cancelled.

255. The Secretariat reported briefly on the programme of work before the Coordinating Committee and informed the Commission that, in order to maintain the frequency of CCLA sessions, tentative arrangements had been made by the Secretariat with the FAO Regional Office for Latin America in Santiago, Chile, to hold the Third Session on the premises of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago, Chile.

Nomination and Appointment of Coordinator

256. The Commission was informed that the present Coordinator, Dr. E.M. Brivio (Uruguay) did not wish to stand for a second term of office and that the countries of the region should therefore consider the nomination of a candidate for this position.

257. The Delegation of Nicaragua, as Acting Chairman of the Latin American Group of FAO, informed the Commission that engineer Ramon Darias Rodés, Minister President of the State Committee for Normalization of the Republic of Cuba had offered to stand as Codex Coordinator for Latin America and that he had the full support of the Latin American Group of FAO. The Delegations of Argentina and Mexico informed the Commission that they also supported the nomination of Minister Darias Rodés. The Commission appointed Minister Darias Rodés as Coordinator for Latin America, to serve from the end of the 15th to the end of the 16th Session of the Commission.

258. In expressing his appreciation to the Commission on his appointment, Minister Darias Rodés pointed out that the normal practice was for sessions of the Codex Coordinating Committees to be hosted in the country of the Coordinator. He, therefore, asked the Commission to defer a firm decision on the date and place of the Third Session of that Committee until such time as he had had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Government of Cuba.

259. The Commission agreed to defer further discussion on the point until later in the Session (see also paragraph 541).

PART VII

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

260. The Commission had before it the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (ALINORM 83/17). The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. P. Bunyan (United Kingdom). He gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the Commission and introduced the various standards at Steps 8 and 5 of the Procedure and matters arising from the Report.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standard for Fat Spreads/Spreadable Table Fats

261. The Commission had before it the above standard as contained in Appendix III of ALINORM 83/17 and the Step 8 amendments proposed by Switzerland, Norway, France, Federal Republic of Germany and Thailand, as contained in ALINORM 83/41 - Part III and ALINORM 83/41 - Part III, Addendum 1.

262. The Commission noted that this standard covered all margarine-type products with fat contents between 20 percent and 70 percent, other than minarine as defined in the Codex Standard for Minarine (CODEX STAN 135-1981).

Status of the Standard

263. The Commission agreed with the views of several delegations that (i) a real need for such standard as Fat Spreads/Spreadable Table Fats did not exist, (ii) there was no

international trade in such products, and (iii) the adoption of the standard would result in proliferation of products with a very wide range of fat which might confuse the consumer. The Commission decided, therefore, not to adopt the standard. The Commission directed the Committee on Fats and Oils not to proceed further with the standard until such a time as a real need was established for such a standard.

Consideration of Draft Standards for [Vanaspati/Vegetable Fat Mixture] and [Mixed Vanaspati/Substitute Ghee.] at Step 5

264. The Commission had before it the above standards, both at Step 5, as contained in ALINORM 83/17, Appendices IV and V. The above standards related to semi-solid products which consisted of (i) a hydrogenated edible vegetable oil or a blend of edible vegetable oil and fat, or (ii) a hydrogenated edible animal and/or marine oils and fats with or without the addition of vegetable oils and fats.

265. The Delegation of New Zealand strongly opposed the use of the word "ghee", as ghee was a dairy product and was so defined in the legislation of some countries.

266. Some Delegations commented on such clauses in the standard as (i) Product definition (ii) Slip point (iii) Acid value and (iv) Peroxide value.

267. The Commission did not discuss these comments which were of a technical nature and more appropriate to the Committee: The Commission requested the countries concerned to submit their comments in writing to the Committee on Fats and Oils for discussion at its next (13th) session. The Commission advanced both the standards to Step 6.

Consideration of Amendments to the Codex Standard for Edible Rape-Seed Oil at Step 5

268. The Commission had before it the above amendment as contained in ALINORM 83/17, Appendix VI.

269. The Commission noted that there was an urgent need for a standard for edible rape-seed oil, since a considerable amount of international trade in the commodity existed.

270. Several delegations made comments of a technical nature. The Commission did not discuss them. The Commission requested the countries concerned to submit their comments in writing to the Committee on Fats and Oils for discussion at its next (13th) session and advanced the amendment to Step 6.

Consideration of Amendments to the Codex Standard for Olive Oil, Virgin and Refined and for Olive-Residue Oil (CODEX STAN 33-1981) at Step 5

271. The Commission had before it the above amendment as contained in ALINORM 83/17, Appendix VII.

272. The Delegation of Spain drew the attention of the Commission to certain shortcomings in the Spanish text and agreed to provide a new text to the Secretariat.

273. The Commission was informed that the percentage of saturated fatty acids at position 2 was expressed as a percentage (m/m) of the total fatty acids and directed the Secretariat to correct the present text which was incorrect.

274. The Commission, after noting that the amendment was non-controversial, omitted Steps 6 and 7 as recommended by the CCFO and adopted it at Step 8.

275. The Commission agreed that the existing standard (CODEX STAN 33-1981) should be amended accordingly.

Consideration of Amendments to Codex Standards for Individual Edible Fats and Oils at Step 5

276. The Commission had before it the above amendments as contained in ALINORM 83/17, Appendix II.

277. The Commission, after noting that Amendments 1 and 2 to clauses in the standard concerning Raw Materials and Identity Characteristics were non-controversial, advanced the amendments to Step 6. It noted that there was an error in the text of Amendment 1 and that the word "shall" should be in square brackets.

278. The Commission noted that GLC ranges are essential identity criteria both for raw and refined fats and oils. It noted that there was a need to include GLC ranges in certain earlier standards to bring them into harmony with more recent Codex standards for oils and fats which already contain the GLC ranges. The Commission omitted Steps 6 and 7, as recommended by the CCFO, and adopted the amendment at Step 8.

279. The Commission did not agree to the mandatory character of the GLC ranges (see paragraphs 283 and 284) for fats and oils and agreed that the GLC ranges should be reinstated in the Codex standards only as Guideline levels.

280. It was agreed that a footnote should be included, at an appropriate place, in all the standards for oils and fats to the effect that GLC ranges are not mandatory and are considered as Guideline levels and advisory.

Amendments Proposed by India and Iraq to General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils

281. India and Iraq had proposed that food colours and food flavours in the Food Additive Provisions in the General Standard for Edible Fats and Oils be deleted. Both India and Iraq put forward health-related problems and possible consumer deception as reasons in support of their amendment.

282. The Commission decided that, as the comments of India and Iraq were technical, the amendments proposed by India and Iraq should be referred to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils for discussion at its next (13th) session.

Other Matters Arising from the Report of the Twelfth Session

Consideration of a proposal to amend the scope section of Codex Standards for individual edible fats and oils

283. The CCFO at its Twelfth Session had asked the Commission to agree with the decision taken by it at its Tenth and Eleventh Sessions that GLC fatty acid ranges should be included in all standards for individual edible fats and oils on a mandatory basis.

284. The Commission recognized (i) that GLC ranges of fats and oils could vary considerably because of genetic manipulation of germ-plasm of oilseeds and (ii) that many of the developing countries might not, for some time to come, have the sophisticated equipment for determination of GLC ranges of fats and oils and trained technicians to handle the equipment. As this could give rise to difficulties for many developing countries, the Commission agreed to view the GLC ranges as being non-mandatory. The Commission agreed, therefore, that the GLC ranges should be considered only as guideline level and recommended that a footnote be included in the standards at an appropriate place to the effect that GLC ranges of fatty acid composition are not mandatory and are considered as guideline levels and advisory.

Date marking

285. The Commission agreed to the proposal of the Committee to incorporate the revised text on date marking, as shown in paragraph 9 of ALINORM 83/17, in all standards for fats and oils and adopted it as a consequential amendment. While doing so the Commission noted that this provision had been endorsed by the Food Labelling Committee (ALINORM 83/22, paragraph 194).

Further Session of the Committee

286. The Codex Committee on Fats and Oils at its Twelfth Session had noted that it had completed the major items of its work and had listed the remaining items of work that would need action from it in Appendix X of its Report (ALINORM 83/17). The Committee had proposed that the Secretariat and Host Government (United Kingdom) should be entrusted with the responsibility of deciding when there was sufficient work on the agenda to warrant convening a further session of the Committee.

287. The Delegation of India proposed that the CCFO should consider elaboration of standards for sal-seed fat and mango-kernel fat in the future since there was a considerable international trade in these commodities.

288. The Commission had before it LIM.18(FO) containing suggestions of the United Kingdom regarding how the remaining items of work on hand could be handled if the Committee adjourned sine die.

289. The Commission agreed that action on all the items of work that would need action by the CCFO could be completed by holding one more session of the Committee. The Commission decided that it would not be advisable to hand over the work to different bodies to complete, as had been suggested in LIM 18, as, by doing this, it might take longer to complete the work to the satisfaction of the Commission.

290. The Commission considered that the work should be completed, to the satisfaction of the Commission, by holding one more session of the Committee. The Commission hoped that the Host Government (United Kingdom) would agree to its request for a further session.

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

292. The report of the Committee (ALINORM 83/20) was introduced by Dr. R. Weik of the Delegation of the USA. He outlined the work accomplished by the Committee at its last Session and indicated that the Committee had under consideration a number of products of particular interest to developing countries. It was essential for countries interested in these products to ensure that they participate fully in the development and discussion of the draft standards concerned.

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Standard for Dates

293. The Commission considered the draft standard (see Appendix VII, ALINORM 83/20) in the light of proposed amendments at Step 8 (ALINORM 83/41 - Part I and LIM.19 (PFV)). It noted that document ALINORM 83/41 - Part I-ADD.1 contained comments attributed to Iraq which should be deleted. The Commission also noted that the draft standard for dates represented the best possible attempt at aligning the UN/ECE and Codex standards.

294. The Delegation of Tunisia, supported by the Delegations of Iran, France and Italy, requested that the maximum moisture content of the cane sugar type variety dates should be raised to 30%. This was necessary since the present maximum level of 26% was not

justified and would have a serious negative effect on the export trade of Tunisia in soft dates, such as the Deglet Ennour and Alligh varieties. In the opinion of these delegations, there was no real scientific justification for a maximum moisture content of 26%, since the main factors in the preservation of the aforementioned dates related to a 2/3 to 1/3 sugar-moisture ratio.

295. It was pointed out that the question of maximum moisture content of dates had been considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and by the UNECE Group of Experts on Dry and Dried Fruits on several occasions. Following their deliberations, both groups had agreed that for cane-sugar varieties, the maximum moisture content should be 26%.

296. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland expressed the view that the criteria and the draft Codex standard such as those relating to insect damage and mould were not sufficiently strict.

Status of the Standard

297. Opinion was divided as to whether the draft standard for dates should be returned for further comments. The Commission agreed that the draft standard should be held at Step 8 of the Procedure and requested the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables to reconsider the question relating to moisture content, in relation to the economic impact the provision for 26% is having on trade. The Delegation of Tunisia was requested to make available all the necessary information to the Committee. On the suggestion of the Delegation of France, the Commission also requested the Committee to consider the possible inclusion of products coated with glucose in the standard. The UN/ECE was requested to suspend discussion of its standard for dates until the Codex has reached a final decision on the matter. The Observer from the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO) stated that the ASMO Technical Committee on Food Standards, which represented the views of 22 Arab countries, had approved the Draft Codex Standard for Dates at Step 8, except for the maximum moisture content for all varieties of dates, which should be raised from 26% to 30%.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Draft Standard for Canned Chestnuts and Chestnut Puree

Status of the Standard

298. The Commission decided to advance the above draft standard contained in Appendix VIII to ALINORM 83/20 to Step 6 of the Codex Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Amendment to Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods

299. The Delegation of Greece expressed its opposition to the amendment. In its opinion the effectiveness of the control in the existing plants is already considered to be inadequate and the amendment would reduce this further.

300. The Commission decided to advance the proposed amendments contained in Appendix IX to ALINORM 83/20 to Step 6 of the Procedure.

Approval for Initiating the Amendment of various Codex Standards for Processed Fruits and Vegetables

301. The Commission agreed that the Procedure for the Amendment of Codex standards be continued in respect of Styles (App.II), Packing Media (App.III), Date Marking (App.IV) and Methods of Analysis (App.VI) as given in ALINORM 83/20. The Delegation of the USA expressed the opinion that date marking of processed fruits and vegetables (which were stable products) should be approached on a product by product basis. The Commission requested the Committee to consider this matter.

Consideration of the Need to Amend the Codex Standard for Canned Tropical Fruit Salad

302. The Commission agreed that the Procedure for the Amendment of the above standard be continued in respect of: (a) the question of the use of the designation "fruit cocktail" as an alternative to the designation "salad" (a term which did not convey the appropriate meaning to consumers in certain countries); and (b) the extension of the list of fruits (see ALINORM 83/21).

303. The Commission also agreed with the recommendation of the Committee that there should be no change to the Codex standard for Fruit Cocktail and that there was no need to embark on the elaboration of a standard for fruit mix, not covered by the Codex standards for fruit cocktail or tropical fruit salad (see ALINORM 83/21).

Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

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

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

305. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Group of Experts (ALINORM 83/14) and document ALINORM 83/41-Part II, containing the comments of governments on the Draft Standards and Proposed Draft Standards under consideration.

306. The Report of the Group of Experts was introduced by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. W. Pilnik (Netherlands), who noted the increased interest in the Group, particularly by developing countries, and the greater number of participants at the last session. Prof. Dr. Pilnik also referred to the ongoing work of the Group of Experts on the definition of fruit juices, taking into account changing technologies, contaminants, and the Working Group on Methods of Analysis and Sampling chaired by Prof. H. Woidich (Austria).

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means, at Step 8

307. In considering the adoption of this draft standard the Commission noted the fact that the old Section 1.2.2 was still included in the French and Spanish versions of the text and should be deleted in conformity with the decision of the Group. It was also noted that the Committee on Food Additives had endorsed the addition of stannous chloride as a food additive, and had also endorsed the maximum level of tin as a contaminant at 250 mg/kg.

308. In regard to labelling, the Commission was informed that the Committee on Food Labelling had requested the Group of Experts to reconsider the section on "Date Marking", and to take into account the position of the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables on this matter. The Commission, noting that the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables was being requested to reconsider the question of date marking on canned foods, referred this matter back to the Committee on Food Labelling for re-consideration of the status of endorsement.

309. In considering the draft standard at Step 8, the Commission noted the reservations of Austria, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland on the maximum concentration of tin as a contaminant. The Delegation of Switzerland also drew the attention of the Commission to the recent deliberations of JECFA concerning tin.

The Delegation of India referred to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group established within the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables which had proposed that a maximum level of 250 mg/kg of tin should be adopted for all canned fruits and vegetables.

310. The Delegation of France reserved its position on the use of the food additives, stannous chloride, malic acid and dimethylpolysiloxane. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Commission that the use of dimethylpolysiloxane was not permitted in that country.

311. The Delegation of Brazil stated that it was not in a position to approve the adoption of the draft standard at Step 8 as this country was currently in the process of considering its own standard for this product.

Status of the Standard

312. The Commission noted the above points of view, and adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice with Preservatives, for Manufacturing, at Step 8

313. The Chairman of the Group of Experts, in introducing this draft standard to the Commission, referred to arguments against its adoption outlined in ALINORM 83/41-Part II. He referred, however, to the problem that arose due to the exclusive nature of Codex standards, and to the parallel case of the standards for Grape Juice and for Sweetened Labrusca-type Grape Juice. He also noted that the Commission had agreed that the standard was of particular importance to developing countries, and had endorsed the progress of the draft standard by advancing it to Step 6 at the last session (see ALINORM 81/39, paragraphs 373-374). The Chairman also noted, in response to the written comment of the Federal Republic of Germany, that the maximum level of sulphur dioxide given in the draft standard was a residual level, and that the text should be amended accordingly.

314. In considering this draft standard, the Commission noted the opposition expressed by the Delegations of Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to its adoption. It also noted the opposition expressed by the Observer of the European Economic Community. The Delegation of Sweden reserved its position on the maximum level of tin permitted in the standard.

Status of the Standard

315. The Commission noting these opinions, but also taking into account the position of other delegations which spoke in favour of the standard, and the fact that several developing countries were very interested in having such a standard, adopted at Step 8 the Draft Standard for Concentrated Pineapple Juice with Preservatives for Manufacturing.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standards for Guava Nectar, Mango Juice and Pulpy Mango Nectar at Step 5

316. The Observer of the EEC, in reference to the Proposed Draft Standard for Guava Nectar, noted that the Community reserved the right to make detailed comments on the minimum fruit content and on the use of food colours, at an appropriate stage.

317. In regard to the Proposed Draft Standard for Mango Juice, the Delegation of India, supported by that of Cuba, expressed its strong reservations. The Delegation restated its opinion, and that of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, that the product containing 50% fruit pulp, sugar and water was the major product in international trade and that this

product was known as "mango juice". The Delegation further noted that the product defined by the standard, in which a large proportion of the edible pulp was removed by extraction and centrifugation, was practically non-existent in trade. The Observer of the EEC stated that a product containing fruit pulp, water and sugar should be called a "nectar", and that the Proposed Draft Standard for Mango Juice was not necessary. The Delegation of Brazil, in supporting the standard at Step 5 noted that the statement made by Brazil in para.103 of the report of the Group of Experts did not reflect the actual situation in Brazil.

Status of the Standard

318. The Commission, noting the above opinions, advanced the Proposed Draft Standards to Step 6. The Delegation of India reserved its position in regard to the standard for Mango Juice.

Amendments to Codex Standards for Fruit Juices

319. The Chairman of the Group of Experts noted that a series of proposals for the amendment of Codex Standards for Fruit Juices had been received from the Coordinating Committee for Asia. He assured the Commission that these would be discussed at the Group's next session. He noted that it had not been possible to discuss them at the Group's previous session due to the overlapping of that session and the session of the Coordinating Committee.

Carry-Over Principle

320. The Commission noted and endorsed the opinion of the Group of Experts that the Carry-Over Principle did not apply either to fruit juices, concentrated fruit juices or to fruit nectars.

Future Work of the Group of Experts

321. The Commission approved the elaboration of a General Standard for Fruit Juices Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means, and a General Standard for Fruit Nectars Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means. The Commission also noted and approved the proposed revision of the methods of analysis and sampling to be undertaken by the Group of Experts.

Proposal to Amend the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts, and to Elaborate a General Standard for Fruit (Based) Drinks

322. The Commission was informed that the International Federation of Fruit Juice Producers had requested that a General Standard for Fruit (Based) Drinks be elaborated. The Executive Committee (29th Session) had been asked by the Chairman of the Group of Experts to approve the elaboration of such a standard, since circumstances had not permitted the Group to discuss the proposal at its 15th Session. The Executive Committee had agreed to send the proposed text for comments at Step 3, but thought, however, that the Commission should be requested to approve the elaboration of the standard.

323. The Delegation of Canada opposed strongly the elaboration of such a standard. It stated that the proposed standard covered a wide range of products, both carbonated and non-carbonated, which fell within the broad description of "soft drinks". Experience in Canada had shown the very great difficulty in defining and regulating such products. The Delegation referred to the Codex Advisory List of Food Additives for Soft Drinks which, it stated, gave adequate protection to the consumer. The 13th Session of the Commission had already concluded that standards for soft drinks were unnecessary. The position of the Canadian Delegation was supported by all other delegations which spoke. The Commission accordingly decided not to continue with the further elaboration of the proposed standard for fruit based drinks.

324. The Commission, however, noted an anomaly in the terms of reference of the Group of Experts and agreed to amend them to read:

"To elaborate world-wide standards for fruit juices, concentrated fruit juices and fruit nectars".

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

325. The Commission recalled that the Group of Experts had adjourned sine die following its Thirteenth Session in September 1980, and that arrangements had been made for the unfinished work of the Group to be completed by correspondence (see ALINORM 81/39, paragraphs 378-380). For its present discussion the Commission had before it the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Carrots, ALINORM 83/25 and 83/25 Addendum 1, and the Draft International Code of Practice for the Handling of Quick Frozen Foods in Transport, ALINORM 83/37. Government comments in document ALINORM 83/41 Part IV and Addendum 1, Part VIII and Addendum 1, and the conference room paper LIM.4 were also available. In order to facilitate discussion of the two subjects at Steps 7 and 8 the Commission established an Ad Hoc Working Group consisting of representatives from the Delegations of Austria, Cuba, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. The report of the Working Group appears as Appendix VI to the present report.

Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Carrots at Steps 7 and 8

326. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group and adopted at Step 8 the revised Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Carrots which appears as Appendix VI to Annex 1. In adopting the standard, the Commission noted that the provision for "other styles" would permit the manufacture and trade of styles not specifically described in the standard.

Draft International Code of Practice for the Handling of Quick Frozen Foods during Transport at Steps 7 and 8

327. The Delegation of Ireland noted that several paragraphs in Section 6 of the revised Draft Code contained recommendations which were not required in the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and the Special Equipment to be Used for Such Carriage (ATP). The Commission agreed, however, that it was appropriate that the Code, as an advisory document, should contain additional recommendations to those appearing in the mandatory ATP text.

328. In considering the revised Draft Code recommended to it by the Ad Hoc Working Group (Annex 2 to Appendix VI), the Commission agreed to accept an amendment to Section 4.2 as proposed by the Delegation of Denmark. The revised section reads as follows:

"When handling of quick frozen foods is expected to increase the product temperature (see especially paragraphs 3.1 and 3.3), it is recommended to decrease the product temperature prior to loading in order to ensure that nowhere in the cargo the product temperature on completion of loading becomes warmer than the recommended carriage temperature".

The Delegation of France provided some editorial amendments to the French text.

Status of the Draft International Code of Practice for the Handling of Quick Frozen Foods during Transport

329. The Commission adopted the Draft International Code of Practice at Step 8 of the Procedure.

330. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work of the rapporteur responsible for the development of the revised Draft Standard and Draft Code of Practice, Mr. W. Aldershoff (Netherlands) and Prof. Dr. W. Spiess (International Institute of Refrigeration, IIR) respectively, and also thanked the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. C. van der Meys (Netherlands).

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (CCFFP)

331. The Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (ALINORM 83/18) was presented by the Chairman, Dr. O.R. Braekkan of Norway.

332. Dr. Braekkan informed the Commission that work was in progress on the following subjects:

- Revised Draft Standard for Canned Pacific Salmon
- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillets, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixture of Fillets and Minced Fish
- Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Sticks (Fish Fingers) and Fish Portions - Breaded or in Batter
- Draft Code of Practice for Cephalopods
- Microbiological Criteria for Crabmeat
- Draft Standard for Dried Salted Fish
- Harmonization of Defect Tables in Codex Standards for Frozen Fish Fillets and Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Fillets, Minced Fish Flesh and Mixture of Fillets and Minced Fish Flesh
- Histamine (Scombridae) Poisoning

Consideration of Draft Codes of Practice at Step 8

333. Dr. Braekkan also informed the Commission that an Ad Hoc Working Group of the CCFFP had examined the following Draft Codes of Practice and they were now submitted for adoption at Step 8:

- Draft Code of Practice for Minced Fish
- Draft Code of Practice for Crabs

Status of the Codes

334. The Commission noted that no Government comments had been received on the Draft Codes of Practice referred to in para. 333 above, and agreed to adopt them at Step 8 of the Procedure. It was also agreed to adopt the following Draft Code of Practice at Step 5 of the Procedure:

- Draft Code of Practice for Frozen Battered and/or Breaded Fishery Products.

Dr. Braekkan also brought the following points to the attention of the Commission.

Products Containing Pork Fat (Lard)

335. The problem of acceptance of products containing lard had been raised by the Delegation of Nigeria, which thought that the use of lard should be clearly labelled. The Committee, recognizing that this was a problem faced by several Commodity Committees, had agreed that the matter should be referred to the Commission for guidance.

336. The Commission noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, at its last Session (ALINORM 83/22), when considering the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-Packaged Food, had agreed to include under Sub-Section 4.2.3 "Specific names/class names" both pork fat and beef fat among fats requiring declaration.

337. It also noted that the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-Packaged Foods contained the necessary labelling requirements to identify pork and beef fats and that it had been retained at Step 6. The Commission agreed that there would be further opportunity to comment on this matter at the next session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Definition of "Smoke" in the Code of Practice for Smoked Fish

338. The Commission noted that the definition of smoke had been amended by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and had been further examined by the CCFFP.

339. The Commission noted that some slight editorial amendments had been made to the definition and agreed that the definition as amended should be included in the Code of Practice for Smoked Fish.

Use of Non-Fish Proteins in Fish Products

340. The Commission noted that there had been some discussion on the above subject and that the CCFFP was of the opinion that, should guidelines be required for the use of non-fish proteins in fish products, such guidelines should be elaborated by the CCFFP.

Standard for Food Grade Salt

341. The Commission noted that products covered by the above standard might not be suitable for fish salting and that a different quality of salt might be necessary for this purpose.

Inclusion of Further Species in the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine Type Products

342. The Commission recalled that at its 13th Session (ALINORM 79/38, paras. 340-341), it had been agreed to include the following species in the above Standard - Sardinella fimbriata, Sardinella serim, Sardinella longiceps, Sardinella gibbosa and Engraulis mordax. These species had not been included in the recently issued Codex Fish Standards and a corrigendum would be issued to rectify the omission.

343. The Commission also noted that the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia had proposed the inclusion of Sardine Sardinella. It was agreed that a clarification of the taxonomic position of Sardine Sardinella, product samples and trade figures should be submitted to the CCFFP for examination as specified in ALINORM 79/18, para.111.

Standard for Quick Frozen Lobsters

344. The Commission was informed that this Standard had already been published (CODEX STAN 95-1981). After discussion at the last session, the CCFFP had agreed to submit a proposal of the Observer of South Africa to amend this standard which required a footnote to the Defects Table in Annex C-1, Table 1, to except "whole" lobster packs from the allocation of four "serious" defect points for "incompleted removal of intestine".

345. The Commission concurred with the opinion expressed by the Chairman of the CCFFP that this was a consequential amendment to the standard and agreed to the addition of the required footnote.

Confirmation of Chairman

346. 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

347. The Commission had before it the Report of the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (ALINORM 83/26). Dr. W. Hölzel of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of Dr. H. Drews, Chairman of the Committee, introduced the report and gave a brief account of the work currently undertaken by the Committee.

348. Dr. Hölzel reported that a Working Group had met prior to the session to consider a comprehensive working paper on follow-up and supplementary foods for older infants and young children. The paper had also contained a Draft Standard for Follow-up Foods for Older Infants and Young Children and draft guidelines for the development of supplementary foods, both of which had subsequently been placed at Step 3 by the Committee. This was agreed by the Commission.

349. In addition to the matters dealt with under sub-items 26(a) to (e), the Committee had considered Proposed Draft Standards for the Labelling of and Claims for Pre-Packaged Foods claimed to be suitable for Incorporation in a Dietary Regimen for Diabetics (returned to Step 3), Low Energy and Reduced Energy Foods (returned to Step 3) and Draft Guidelines for [Medical] Foods. The Committee had been of the opinion that the latter should be developed within the Step Procedure and be considered at Step 3. This was agreed to by the Commission.

350. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that the Committee had continued its work on several other items through Working Groups (Advisory Lists, Methods of Analysis).

351. The Committee had also given consideration to a paper prepared by Thailand, on behalf of the Coordinating Committee for Asia, which outlined the problems in that region concerning the acceptance of Codex Standards for Infants and Children (paragraphs 127-132).

352. Dr. Hölzel stated that the Committee had also discussed matters related to the implications of the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. The Committee had expressed the view that the Code and the Standards could and should exist side by side (see also para. 377).

Nutritional Aspects of Codex Work and Extended Terms of Reference of the Committee

353. The Commission was informed that, as requested at its 14th Session, the Committee had given full consideration to all matters related to extending its terms of reference to coordinate work on nutritional aspects within the Codex Alimentarius Commission, assisted by a comprehensive working paper prepared by Dr. M.E. Cheney, Canada (CX/FSDU 82/3). The Committee's conclusions were contained in para. 23 of ALINORM 83/26.

354. The Commission noted that the Committee had accepted its revised extended terms of reference as contained in CX/FSDU 83/3. The Delegation of the United States proposed two amendments to these terms of reference: (a) add in the third indent the term "general" before provisions, and (b) clarify in the fifth indent that Committees had to refer their standards specifically to CCFSDU for endorsement. These proposals were supported by several delegations. However, it was also pointed out that they might be unduly restrictive. The Commission decided to amend the fifth indent to read "... and were specifically referred to the Committee".

355. The Observer of the EEC expressed the view that the Committee should deal also with foods for special dietary uses which were not prepackaged. The Chairman stated that these were covered by the present terms of reference and the Committee could be requested to include the item under future work.

356. The Commission agreed with para. 26(b) concerning the timing of sessions and concurred with CCFSU that the best way of tackling the workload would be by means of specific working groups (para. 26(c)). The Rapporteur invited all interested Members of the Commission to be represented at the meetings of these Working Groups which would be held prior to the session of the Committee.

357. The Commission agreed that the Working Group, scheduled in connection with the 14th Session of the Committee, should continue with its consideration of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Use by Codex Committees on the Inclusion of Provisions on Nutrition Quality in Food Standards and other Codex Texts and approved that they should be considered to be at Step 3 of the Procedure.

358. The Commission noted that it would be informed in due course of matters of priority for future sessions of the Working Group. It also noted that General Guidelines on Food Fortification were another subject matter which had already been identified and that the Delegation of Canada had agreed to prepare a first draft.

359. The Delegation of France stated its general support for the conclusion in para.23 of the report and proposed that the name of the Committee should be changed to "Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses". The Commission was informed that this matter had already been discussed and would be again on the agenda for the next session of the Committee which was scheduled to be held in November 1984.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Pre-Packaged Foods for Special Dietary Uses

360. The Commission had before it the above draft standard as contained in Appendix III to ALINORM 83/26. Written Step 8 amendments had been received from Switzerland (ALINORM 83/41 - Part VI), Thailand (ALINORM 83/41 - Part VI Add. 1) and France (LIM.9).

361. The Commission noted that the comments submitted by Thailand and France had already been considered by the Committee. The Delegation of India was of the opinion that date-marking using the expression "use before..." was preferable to the expression "best before..." in view of the fact that some vitamins and other nutrients not being stable are lost. The Chairman noted that the indication of expiry dates led to food exceeding such dates being destroyed and that the economic implications of this type of date-marking should be borne in mind.

362. A number of delegations spoke in favour of delaying the advancement of the Draft General Standard in the Codex Procedure in order to allow it to be aligned with other related texts, i.e. the Revised General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods. The Secretariat pointed out that there appeared to be no real need for the General Standard to be held since the two standards dealt with issues specific to ordinary foods on the one hand and foods for special dietary uses on the other. The Delegation of the USA pointed to para. 30 of the Report of the Committee (ALINORM 83/26) according to which a change proposed to Section 2.4 - Advertising, of the General Standard had been left to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling to consider. It was also noted that several provisions of the Standard would have to be referred to CCFL for endorsement.

Status of the General Standard

363. The Commission decided to hold the General Standard for the Labelling of and Claims for Pre-packaged Foods for Special Dietary Foods at Step 8 of the Procedure. The Committee was requested to align at its next session the Standard with the General Standard for Pre-packaged Foods which was expected to be finalized at that time, and to submit it for endorsement to the 18th Session of CCFL.

Consideration at Step 5 of Proposal to Amend the Codex Standard for Infant Formula (CODEX STAN 72-1981)

364. The above amendment was contained in Section II of Appendix XIII. The Rapporteur pointed out that the Committee had given full consideration to the amendment which provided for certain additives and carrier substances in vitamin preparations to be carried over in the product which otherwise prohibited any carry-over of additives. He also emphasized that very small amounts of these substances were actually used. The Committee had proposed that the above amendment be adopted at Steps 5 and 8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. Dr. Hölzel pointed out that a small editorial error had to be corrected in the proposed text.

365. The Commission adopted the above amendment at Steps 5 and 8 of the Procedure.

Request for Approval to Amend the Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children

366. The Committee had elaborated a number of proposals for amending some provisions of the Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children (CODEX STAN 72/74-1981), Codex Alimentarius Vol. IX) which were contained in Appendix XIII, Part IA-D. The Committee had requested the Commission to approve that the amendment procedure be initiated and that the amendments be considered to be at Step 3.

367. The Commission agreed with the above request and decided that the amendments contained in Appendix XIII, Part IA-D, should be considered to be at Step.3.

368. The Delegations of Spain and of Hungary agreed to submit their comments on the above amendments which were of a technical nature to the next session of the Committee.

Request for Approval of Amendment to Advisory List of Vitamin Compounds for Use in Foods for Infants and Children

369. The proposed text for the amendment of the above advisory lists (Part IV of Vol. IX of the Codex Alimentarius) was contained in Part III of Appendix XIII to ALINORM 83/26. The Committee had finalized a provision on special vitamin forms and requested the Commission to approve the above text for inclusion into the Advisory List on Vitamin Compounds for Use in Foods for Infants and Children which had not been elaborated within the Step Procedure.

370. The Commission noted that there was a typing error under (a) which would be corrected in accordance with the maximum levels given in para. 120 (c).

371. The Commission approved that the provision on Special Vitamin Forms as contained in Part III of Appendix XIII be included in the Advisory List for Vitamin Compounds.

Request for Approval to Amend the Codex Standard for Foods with Low Sodium Content (Including Salt Substitutes) (CODEX STAN 53-1981)

372. The Committee had decided that the above standard should be amended to include the same provisions on date-marking and storage instructions which had been included in other Codex Standards for Foods for Special Dietary Uses (para.10). The Commission had been requested to consider the above amendment as contained in Part IV of Appendix XIII as a consequential amendment.

373. The Commission agreed that the above amendment was of a consequential nature and adopted the amendment at Step 8 in accordance with the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

Other Matters arising from the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee

Editorial Amendment of Provisions for Date-Marking and Storage Instructions in Codex Standards for Foods for Infants and Children (CODEX STAN 72/74-1981) and the Codex Standard for Gluten-free Foods (CODEX STAN 118-1981)

374. The Committee had complied with the request by the Commission to review the wording of the provisions on date-marking and storage instructions in the above standards as and when the Guidelines on Date-Marking were finalized. The Committee had found the text of the Guidelines for those two provisions satisfactory and had requested the Commission to approve an appropriate editorial amendment of the standards concerned (para.10).

375. The Commission noted that the proposed wording for the amendment was identical to the relevant provisions in the Guidelines on Date-Marking and adopted at Step 8 the text as an editorial amendment in accordance with the revised Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards.

International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes

376. The WHO Joint Secretary reported on the above subject. At its 14th Session, the CAC had received a detailed account on this International Code which had been adopted by the World Health Assembly as a Recommendation in May 1981 (WHA 34.22). The Code, in its operational paragraph 4, had requested the CAC to give full consideration to action it might take with regard to the standards for infant foods and to support and promote the implementation of the Code. The Commission had held the view that the CCFSDU was the appropriate Committee to coordinate this work. As a consequence, the Codex Secretariat had requested Codex Contact Points and other interested parties to examine the Code and the result of this examination had been discussed at the 13th Session of the CCFSDU in 1982. The Codex Secretariat had now complied with a request by the Committee to appoint a consultant who would review all relevant Codex Standards in the light of the International Code. This review would be before the CCFSDU at its next session. In order to keep the CAC abreast of the progress in implementing the Code in Member States, the Codex Secretariat had sent the relevant WHO documents to Codex Contact Points in June 1983. This documentation provided an overview of the steps being taken in more than 100 countries and territories to give effect to the International Code.

Nutritional Value and Safety of Products Specifically Intended for Infant and Young Child Feeding

377. The World Health Assembly, in 1981, adopted Resolution WHA 34.23 which had requested an assessment of changes in the nutritional value and safety in this type of foods during storage and transport under extreme climatic conditions. The activities of WHO had been regularly reported to CCFSDU because of the possible implications for the relevant Codex Standards.

378. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress report on both World Health Assembly Resolutions and wished to assure WHO of its continued support in its efforts to improve the nutrition of infants and young children.

379. The Delegation of Thailand wished to express its thanks for the assistance of Australia concerning the technological developments in the field of infant foods (para. 131 of ALINORM 83/26).

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

381. The Commission wished to convey to the authorities concerned in the Federal Republic of Germany its appreciation for providing the necessary support which would enable the Committee to carry out its work under its extended terms of reference. It also thanked the Chairman and the Secretariat of the Committee for their willingness to accept a considerable additional workload.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PROCESSED MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS (CCPMPP)

382. The Commission had before it the Report of the 12th Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Meat and Poultry Products (ALINORM 83/16). The Report was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Ms. A. Brincker. Dr. Brincker gave an account of the work accomplished by the Committee since the last session of the Commission, and informed the Commission that the Committee would, as part of its future programme of work, undertake elaboration of processing requirements for shelf stable canned cured meat products.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Code of Practice for the Production, Storage and Composition of Mechanically Separated Meat and Poultry Meat intended for further Processing

383. The Commission had before it the above Draft Code of Practice as contained in Appendix II of ALINORM 83/16 and Step 8 amendments, as put forward by the Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and Chile.

384. The Commission was informed by the Chairman of the Committee that the amendments proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom had all been considered by the Committee at its earlier sessions and that only the amendment proposed by Chile on the question of more specific recommendations for measures to retard oxidation processes in mechanically separated meat during storage had not been discussed by the Committee. Chile had not put forward any specific proposal for amendment and the Commission noted that the matter was covered in general terms in the Code. The Commission was also informed that it did not seem that Chile's comments raised a substantive matter.

385. The Commission recognized that the CCP (Critical Control Point) note (para.2 of Appendix II) provided guidance to inspectors and hence did not agree to the United Kingdom's suggested amendment to delete the time temperature conditions given in the CCP note.

Status of the Code

386. The Commission adopted the Code of Practice at Step 8 noting that the figure for the calcium content (1.5 percent) of mechanically separated meat was a compromise. The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany reserved its position. The Delegation of India suggested a figure of 2.5% for the calcium content.

Consideration at Step 5 of the Proposed Revised Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Processed Meat and Poultry Products

387. The Commission noted that the Code of Hygienic Practice had undergone extensive amendments at its 12th Session and, having heard no objections from any of the Members of the Commission, advanced it to Step 6.

Other Matters Arising from the Report of the 12th Session of the Committee

Draft Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Proteins in Processed Meat and Poultry Products

388. The Commission noted that the Guidelines which the Committee was developing and which were now at Step 3 were at a very preliminary stage of development and that a number

of provisions were still in square brackets. The Committee was also considering the possible inclusion of non-meat proteins other than vegetable proteins in the Guidelines.

389. The Commission expressed the opinion that the CCPMPP could benefit significantly from the General Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Proteins presently being elaborated by CCVP.

390. The Guidelines being developed by Commodity Committees should be consistent with the General Guidelines being developed by the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins, with due regard to the specific requirements of individual products.

391. The Commission expressed the wish that the development of the Guidelines should be in close cooperation with the CCVP.

Evaluation of Alternate Treatment of Spices to be Used in Meat Products

392. The CCPMPP at its 12th Session expressed considerable concern at the present position regarding the sterilizing of spices to be used in processed meat and poultry products. The most common method of treatment by ethylene oxide was under criticism, for toxicological reasons, and was expected to be prohibited in at least some countries in the near future. As there was a real need for spices of good bacteriological quality for use in processed meat and poultry products moving in international trade and also for products other than meat products, the CCPMPP agreed to seek the advice of the Commission regarding the desirability of elaborating a Code of Hygienic Practice for Production, Handling and Treatment of Spices, with a view to international harmonization. The Commission recognized the need for such a Code and requested the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to consider undertaking such a task at its next session.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT HYGIENE

394. The Commission had before it the Report of the Fifth Session of the above Committee which was introduced by the Head of the New Zealand Delegation, Mr. G.H. Boyd, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee.

395. Mr. Boyd reported that at the Fifth Session, the CCMH had done extensive work on the following Codes:

- Draft International Code of Hygienic Practice for Game
- Draft International Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat

396. The CCMH had considered that in both cases the maximum degree of consensus had been reached by participants and by governments. The Committee, therefore, was submitting both Codes to the Commission for adoption at Step 8; in the latter Code the omission of Steps 6 and 7 had been recommended.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft International Code of Hygienic Practice for Game

397. The Commission noted that the Code had been fully discussed and considerably amended during the session.

398. It also noted that a further amendment was proposed by the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, namely that in Section 41 dealing with Retention of Game Carcasses, the final sentence should read "The relevant parts of the game carcass should be assembled for further examination and any laboratory test deemed necessary for reaching a final decision".

399. The Commission agreed to this amendment.

Status of the Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Game

400. The Commission adopted the Code at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 5 (with proposed omission of Steps 6 and 7) of
Draft International Code of Practice for Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem
Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat ("Judgement Code")

401. Mr. Boyd informed the Commission that the above Code, as amended by the CCMH, and which was contained in ALINORM 83/32, Addendum I and Appendix II, Annex I, had been published at short notice, in order that the text, which had been agreed by the CCMH, should be presented to the Commission, and also in order to give governments an opportunity to raise points at the present session.

402. The Delegation of Thailand referred to its written comments (ALINORM 83/41, Part X) and confirmed its support for the proposal made by the Delegation of Uruguay at the last session of the Committee to amend paras. 3.4 and 3.4.1 referring to Virus Conditions (Foot and Mouth Diseases) (see ALINORM 83/32, Appendix III and para. 118). In its opinion, these proposals concerned important technical points and for this reason the Code should not be advanced. The Delegation of Brazil fully supported this point of view.

403. The Observer from the EEC pointed out that the Code combined public health provisions and animal health provisions. It also contained in Appendix III a first page with recommendations on how to deal with residues in meat and as a supplement, on the following pages, lists of pesticides with, where available, maximum residue limits. In the opinion of the Observer these lists were out of date and should not be retained.

404. The Commission noted that the list referred to was intended only as an informal supplement to the Code.

405. The Commission also noted that as a result of earlier discussions, it had been decided to form an expert consultation to examine the question of residues/contaminants in meat (see paragraphs 156-162). The Commission agreed, in view of this, that Appendix III was no longer necessary, since up-to-date information on such questions would be available from the expert consultation. It was agreed to delete Appendix III in its entirety.

406. The Observer from the EEC, referring to Appendix II - Final Judgement - Tables by Diseases and Defects, expressed the opinion that the combination of Animal Health conditions and Public Health factors listed in the tables would lead to confusion and that furthermore other Codes, such as the International Zoosanitary Code of the OIE, had not been fully taken into account.

407. Speaking on behalf of the ten Member States of the EEC, he proposed that the Annex should be deleted in its entirety.

408. The Delegation of Norway expressed the opinion that Appendix II contained valuable information regarding safeguards for both consumer health and animal health and that coverage of both these aspects was necessary in the "Judgement Code". The Delegation of Norway was opposed to the deletion of animal health aspects.

409. The Representatives of WHO and FAO informed the Commission that they considered Appendix II to be the most essential part of the document. The Representative of WHO further pointed out that the proposal of the Delegation of Uruguay referred to only 8 pathological conditions in vesicular animal diseases and suggested that such conditions of animal health could be judged in accordance with the International Zoosanitary Code

(which was cross-referenced in the "Judgement Code"). He also pointed out that the list of foodborne and zoonotic pathogenic agents had increased tremendously in the past decade. The Post-Mortem inspection for these zoonoses and judgement of meat from infected animals in general had a great public health significance even if some animal diseases were not considered zoonotic at the present time.

410. The Delegation of the USA supported by the Delegation of Australia was of the opinion that the "Judgement Code" in its entirety was essential and that the present text represented the best international compromise possible on a very important matter. The Delegation of New Zealand agreed with this point of view. The Delegation of New Zealand reminded the Commission that the "Judgement Code" had been examined not only by the CCMH, but also had been drafted by a working party of member countries and was of the opinion that drastic changes to the text as a result of verbal comments to this Commission at this late stage would have an extremely negative effect on the value of the "Judgement Code" as a whole.

411. The Delegation of the Netherlands stated that the Code as it stood could present difficulties with regard to meat inspection in the absence of animal health specialists at meetings of the Committee. The Delegation of Netherlands was of the opinion that further written government comments were needed to correct any possible mistakes in animal health provisions. Several delegations shared this opinion.

412. The Commission noted the opinion of the Legal Adviser that omission of steps could only be justified when there was an urgent need for the Code and that the withdrawal of Appendix III removed the necessity for advancing the Code to Step 8 on these grounds.

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

413. The Commission decided to advance the Code to Step 6 of the Procedure and invite written comments with regard to public health/animal health aspects of the Code. The views of governments would be collated and analysed by the FAO/WHO Secretariat and placed before the Executive Committee at its next session, so that it could be decided as a policy matter whether there was justification for re-examining the Code.

Adjournment Sine Die

414. The Commission noted that the CCMH decided to adjourn sine die and confirmed this. It expressed its appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for the excellent progress that had been made on extremely complex subjects and for its generosity in hosting the Committee.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CEREALS, PULSES AND LEGUMES

416. The Commission had before it the Report of the Third Session of the Committee (ALINORM 83/29) and a report on matters which required specific action by the Commission in ALINORM 83/21.

417. Dr. R.W. Weik of the Delegation of the United States introduced the above report on behalf of Mr. D.R. Galliard, Chairman of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes. He reported on the work carried out by the Committee at its third session.

Consideration of Draft Standards at Step 8

Maize (Corn)

418. The Commission had before it the above standard as contained in Appendix III and written proposals for amendments and comments at Step 8 in ALINORM 83/41-Part V - Add.1 (Domenican Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland and Thailand) and LIM.5 (France).

419. The Rapporteur, Dr. E.W. Weik, pointed out that the development of the standard had been transferred to the Committee from the Coordinating Committee for Africa at Step 6 and that the Committee had had, during three sessions, extensive discussions in order to finalize the standard. He further pointed out that the above standard had been sent at Step 8 to the 14th Session of the Commission which had returned it to Step 6. The Committee had consequently paid special attention to taking into account additional comments.

420. Referring to the written comments at Step 8, the Rapporteur indicated that most of the points raised had been thoroughly discussed by the Committee and he proposed, therefore, that the above standard be adopted at Step 8.

421. Several delegations expressed the view that the standard as contained in Appendix III was incomplete, in that the section on methods of analysis and sampling had been separated from the standard and some technical provisions needed, in their opinion, further attention.

422. The Delegation of India pointed to the need to define appropriate methods since they were linked closely to the numerical values contained in the standard.

423. The Delegation of Argentina, stressing the importance of this standard for the maize-consuming countries, could, however, not agree with some of the provisions on hygiene and reiterated the comments made by Argentina at the Third Session of the Committee; it also emphasized the need for appropriate methods of analysis.

424. It was pointed out that appropriate methods had previously been included in the standard. However, the final selection was being referred to a Working Group composed of AOAC, ICC and ISO, which would meet in connection with the 4th Session of the Committee.

425. At that point of time, the Commission decided to hold the standard at Step 8, pending further work on several provisions such as quality criteria and hygiene and endorsement of the relevant provisions by the General Subject Committees concerned.

426. The Rapporteur expressed his disappointment at the fact that the comments and objections against the standard were presented at such a late stage only and indicated that there was some doubt in his mind as to whether, under the circumstances, the Committee should continue its work.

427. The Commission urged Member Countries to submit their detailed comments on the standard to the Committee, to provide the necessary expert advice, and to attend, if at all possible, the next session of the Committee in order to facilitate the finalization of a standard which had been considered to be very important by the Commission at its previous session.

Status of the Standard for Maize (Corn)

428. Finally, in order to enable the Secretariat to request further comments and the Committee to discuss the standard at its next session, the draft standard for maize (corn)

was returned to Step 6 of the Procedure, instead of being retained at Step 8, as had first been decided. The Delegation of Thailand urged the Committee to consider also the economic impact of certain provisions, e.g. size of grains.

Wheat Flour

429. The above standard was contained in Appendix II and written proposals for amendments at Step 8 and comments were contained in ALINORM 83/41-Part V (EEC, Group of Millers Associations in the EEC (GAM); ALINORM 83/41-Part V, Add.1 (Dominican Republic, Japan, Norway, Poland and Thailand) and LIM.5 (France and the Netherlands).

430. Dr. Weik, in introducing this item, pointed out that this standard had also been fully discussed. He stated that the sections on hygiene and labelling had already been seen by the relevant Committees and had been amended according to the suggestions made by these Committees. Dr. Weik informed the Committee that with regard to methods of analysis and sampling, the advice of the Session of CCMAS had been sought and these sections would be finalized by the working group mentioned in para.424. He recalled that the Commission had, on previous occasions, adopted standards in which some provisions had not been finalized; and that especially with regard to fat acidity and particle size, the determination of appropriate methodology would require a number of years.

431. The Rapporteur informed the Commission that all written comments before it had already been discussed by the Committee and proposed that, in view of the importance of wheat flour as a staple food, the standard be adopted at Step 8.

432. The Delegation of India informed the Commission that the Coordinating Committee for Asia at its 3rd Session had recommended that this Committee not proceed too rapidly with this standard, since it was incomplete (para. 50 of ALINORM 83/15). The Chairman reminded Chairmen of Committees that written comments should be taken into account, and this was important especially if they had been submitted by Coordinating Committees.

433. A number of delegations and the Observer from the EEC, in some cases confirming their written comments, stated strongly that, in their opinion, the standard was not ready to be adopted at Step 8 and that further work was needed on fat acidity, particle size and on certain provisions for food additives, contaminants, hygiene, nutritional value, optional ingredients and methods of analysis and sampling.

434. In addition to these comments, two delegations commented also on the Scope Section. The Delegation of Portugal wished to have included provisions which related to the intended use of the flour (e.g. breadmaking, cakeflour). It also opposed the permitted use of bean and soyflour to improve protein content, since these optional ingredients changed the characteristics of the flour. The latter comment was supported by the Delegation of India, which also regretted that flour from durum wheat which was a very important food in India had been excluded from the standard.

435. The Delegation of the United Kingdom referred to Appendix VIII which contained the Technological Justification of the Use of Food Additives which had been prepared for submission to CCFA. It pointed out, that the 16th Session of CCFA had held the view that the paper reflected only the situation in the United Kingdom and had endorsed only two of the additives, without giving a satisfactory explanation for this action. The Delegation of the United Kingdom proposed that a Working Group should review the additives sections and report to the next session of the Committee. The Commission recommended to the Committee to consider this proposal.

Status of the Standard for Wheat Flour

436. The Commission decided to return the draft standard for wheat flour to Step 6 of the Procedure and requested the Secretariat to issue a circular letter which strongly

emphasizes the need for comprehensive comments in good time and representation at the Committee's next session by interested countries in order to enable the Committee to finalize the pending sections of the standard.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Standards at Step 5

Whole Maize (Corn) Meal (Appendix IV) Degermed Maize (Corn) Meal and Maize (Corn) Grits (Appendix V)

437. The Dominican Republic and Poland had expressed, in writing, their view that these two standards should be elaborated (ALINORM 83/41-Part V, Add.1). The Commission adopted the above standard at Step 5 of the Procedure and advanced them to Step 6.

Other Matters arising from the Third Session of the Committee (Agenda Item 30(c))

Need to Elaborate a Codex Standard for Milled Rice as related to the Programmes of Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and ISO (Paragraphs 144-151)

438. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided not to elaborate a Codex Standard for Milled Rice at present. A summary of the discussions on this matter by the Third Session of the Committee had been contained in ALINORM 83/21 as background material. As requested, the 30th Session of the Executive Committee had examined the Committee's decisions in particular with a view to avoid duplication of work with other international organizations, in this case ISO.

439. The Commission was informed of the following conclusions by the Executive Committee:

Which had,

(a) noted with satisfaction that in the case of milled rice there was no duplication of work between ISO and the Commission:

(b) agreed that the ISO specification for rice was being developed in accordance with the ISO policy statement recognized by the Commission, and that the Commission should be advised accordingly;

(c) recommended that, in view of the different format and scope of ISO specifications and Codex Standards, the Commission should advise that the ISO Specification for Rice when finalized: (i) be sent to all Member Countries of the Commission for comments; (ii) be discussed in the light of these comments by the Regional Coordinating Committees; and (iii) together with the views of the Coordinating Committees be referred to CC/CPL for further consideration of the need to elaborate a standard for milled rice in the Codex format. (Para. 23 of ALINORM 83/4).

440. The Commission fully approved the Executive Committee's conclusion as given above and, in particular, referred the matters outlined in (c) to the Codex Secretariat and ISO.

Codex Standard for Pulses

441. The Commission was informed that the Committee had accepted its revised terms of reference, namely: to elaborate world-wide standards and/or codes of practice as may be appropriate for cereals, pulses, legumes and their products.

442. The Commission was further informed that the Committee had agreed on a definition for pulses, legumes and leguminous oilseeds and had commenced work on a standard for pulses. This draft standard had been based on the UNECE draft recommendation for pulses and had been sent out for comments at Step 3.

443. The Commission expressed its appreciation to UNECE for its cooperation in this field and to UNECE's decision to discontinue work on its draft recommendation until the Codex standard had been finalized (see also para.66).

444. The Observer of ICC outlined briefly the work which was done by his organization in the field of cereal chemistry, including methods of analysis. He pointed out that scientists and technologists of the most important cereal producing countries cooperated with ICC which in turn liaised with other organizations such as ISO and recently with CC/CPL. The Observer of ICC reiterated his organization's willingness to offer its expertise to the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

445. Dr. Weik repeated his misgivings as to whether or not it was worthwhile using the Committee's time and resources in repeatedly reviewing standards such as those for maize and wheat flour which could not gain acceptance by the Commission, but indicated the willingness of the USA to continue to host the Committee.

446. 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.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON COCOA PRODUCTS AND CHOCOLATE

447. The Commission had before it the report of the 15th Session of the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (ALINORM 83/10). The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. E. Matthey (Switzerland), introduced the report and reviewed the excellent progress which had been made on the three standards before the Committee which had all been advanced to Step 8 and were now before the Commission (see ALINORM 83/10 Appendices II, III and IV).

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standard for Cocoa (Cacao) Nibs, Cocoa (Cacao) Mass, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust (Cocoa Fines) for Use in the Manufacture of Cocoa Products and Chocolate ("Nibs Standard")

448. Dr. Matthey informed the Commission that in its original form the above Draft Standard had included Cocoa Beans. At the 10th Session of the Commission the Standard had been returned to Step 7 (see ALINORM 74/44 paragraphs 83-91), chiefly because of lack of agreement on defects and moisture levels. This part of the Standard was based on the Model Ordinance prepared by the FAO Study Group on Cocoa whose recommended norms had been included in the Export Marketing Regulations of several primary producing countries. In the course of successive meetings of the CCCPC repeated attempts to reconvene the Cocoa Study Group in order to review and amend the Ordinance had been unsuccessful and it was understood that no meeting of this Group could be organized in the foreseeable future. However, since trade in cocoa beans depended largely on marketing regulations of trading countries and on private agreements between buyer and seller and since the Codex Standard also contained provisions for the semi-processed products used in the manufacture of the finished products, an amended Standard from which the provisions for cocoa beans had been removed was proposed to the Committee and, after examination and some amendment, was now submitted to the Commission at Step 8 (see ALINORM 83/10 Appendix II).

449. The Delegation of the Ivory Coast informed the Commission of its country's activities and position with regard to the elaboration of this and other standards through the CCCPC. The delegation also pointed out the beneficial effects of Codex Standards both to consumers and to international trade. It agreed that cocoa beans were a raw product that was already well regulated in international trade and supported the adoption of the "Nibs Standard" at Step 8. The Delegations of Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico and Nigeria and the Observer from the EEC also supported the adoption of the Standard.

450. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, while not opposing the adoption, was of the opinion that the Standard was incomplete if provisions for beans were not included.

451. The Delegation of Thailand expressed reservations with regard to the levels of copper and lead in the contaminants section.

Status of the Standard

452. The Commission decided to adopt the Standard for Cocoa Nib, Cocoa Mass, Cocoa Press Cake and Cocoa Dust (Cocoa Fines) for Use in the Manufacture of Chocolate Products at Step 8 of the Procedure.

Consideration at Step 8 of Draft Standard for Composite and Filled Chocolate (ALINORM 83/10 Appendix III)

453. Dr. Matthey informed the Commission that the following issues had been discussed at the Committee Session: the use of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter in composite chocolate; amendment of the standard to include coated products, and the proportion of the chocolate component expressed as total weight of the finished product in filled products.

Use of Vegetable Fats

454. The Commission noted the discussion which had taken place on the subject (ALINORM 83/10 paragraphs 61-69) and that two texts had been proposed for the description of Composite Chocolate, namely the present text of 2.1 which excluded fats unless present in a permitted ingredient, and a second text of 2.1 which would allow the addition of vegetable fat up to a maximum of 5 percent. It also noted that the same broad groups of delegations supported one of the other versions. The Delegation of Sweden, referring to paragraph 62 of ALINORM 83/10, wished it noted that Sweden had not been mentioned as supporting the second version of 2.1.

455. The Delegation of the United Kingdom, referring to its written comments and proposed amendments in ALINORM 83/4 Part XI, and to paragraph 63 of ALINORM 83/10, pointed out that the use of vegetable fats had increased considerably while the Committee had been examining the question and that a number of countries which did not at present permit such use were reviewing the matter. In addition, the present provisions would exclude many products now on the market, at present estimated at 20-25 percent of the world production of chocolate. The delegation therefore proposed that its amendments to Sections 2.1, 3.1.2, and 7.1.1.1 be accepted.

456. The Delegation of Ireland supported the United Kingdom's proposal.

457. The Delegation of Belgium pointed out that although national legislation did not permit the use of vegetable fats, it was of the opinion that analytical methods were available which would enable strict control of the addition of vegetable fats and that with adequate labelling provisions, fats permitted by national legislation could be accepted.

458. After some further discussion, the Commission noted that a majority was of the opinion that the present provisions of 2.1 for Composite Chocolate were the best compromise possible and decided to maintain the present text.

459. The Commission noted that the technology of the use of vegetable fats was still developing and requested the Secretariat to keep the situation under constant review.

Proportion of Chocolate in Filled Chocolate

460. The Observer from the EEC reiterated the opinion expressed at the 15th Session of the CCCPC (see ALINORM 83/10 para.76) that the 40 percent requirement for the chocolate component of the product was too high and that, as permitted by EEC regulations, a lower limit of 25 percent should be allowed.

461. The Commission also noted that a Working Group had proposed amendments to the Standard to allow for the technical difference between coating a prepared centre and filling a chocolate shell.

462. The Delegation of Austria referred to its previously stated position that the higher percentage must be maintained and that other products could be considered as confectionery. After some further discussion the Commission noted that the positions taken by delegates had not changed substantially since the discussions at the 15th Session of the Committee. It noted that the prevailing opinion in the Commission was that the text as presented in ALINORM 83/10 Appendix III should be adopted at Step 8.

463. The Delegation of Thailand, while expressing its agreement with the Standard on the points discussed, expressed reservation on the limits for copper and lead in the contaminants section.

Status of the Standard

464. The Commission decided to maintain the text as presented in ALINORM 83/10 Appendix III and to adopt the standard at Step 8 of the Procedure.

465. The Delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Observer from the EEC expressed their strong reservations to the decision. The Delegation of Iran stated that Iran could not accept a standard for filled chocolate or any other kind of chocolate whose composition included liqueur, whisky or other alcoholic beverages.

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

466. Dr. Matthey, informed the Commission of the problem as previously discussed in the CCCPC regarding the title of the Draft Standard.

467. The Commission noted that by a majority decision the title had been changed at the 15th Session (see ALINORM 83/10, paragraphs 97 and 98) from "Draft Standard for Composite Cocoa Butter (Cocoa Butter Confectionery)" to "Draft Standard for White Chocolate/Cocoa Butter Confectionery".

468. Several delegations especially from the producing countries expressed their fundamental objection to the name "White Chocolate" for a product which did not conform to the provisions of the Codex Standard for Chocolate.

469. Other delegations repeated the argument, economic and by reason of nomenclature and common usage, which justified the elaboration of a standard which included the name "White Chocolate" (see ALINORM 81/10, paragraphs 75-77).

470. The Commission noted that in the opinions of the producing countries, it would be better to return to the title proposed and labelling provision proposed at the

14th Session of the Committee which read, respectively, as follows:

Draft Standard for [Composite Cocoa Butter] [Cocoa Butter Confectionery]

7.1 Designation of the Product

Products described under Section 2.1 and complying with Section 3.1 of the standard shall be designated [composite Cocoa Butter] [Cocoa Butter Confectionery]. In addition other alternative designations e.g. "white chocolate") may be used if they will not mislead or deceive the consumer in the country where the product is sold.

471. The Delegation of the United States proposed to simplify the above text by eliminating "Composite Cocoa Butter" from the title and from the labelling section.

472. The delegations of the producing countries repeated their fundamental objection to the description "White Chocolate", even as an alternative description under the labelling section.

473. The Delegation of the United Kingdom questioned whether the description "Cocoa Butter Confectionery" was in common use in any country which consumed products covered by the Standard. In its view the commonly used term was "White Chocolate".

Status of the Standard

474. After further discussion, the Commission noted that opinions were equally divided on whether to retain the title proposed at the 14th Session or that agreed at the 15th Session. The Commission agreed to hold the standard as proposed at the 15th Session, at Step 8 of the Procedure and to reconsider the matter further at the 16th Session of the Commission.

475. The Delegation of the Ivory Coast expressed some concern about this decision and the provisions of other standards such as Cocoa Butter. It stressed that the raw materials of the chocolate industry were of prime concern to producing countries and the Standards elaborated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission should properly reflect their interests.

476. The Commission noted that provisions agreed in Codex Standards were arrived at through a progressive process of consultation with all Member Governments of the Commission and that the decision taken by the Commission to hold the draft standard at Step 8 indicated its intention not to adopt standards which might not be in the interest of any Member of the Commission.

Adjournment Sine Die

477. The Commission agreed with the Committee's proposal that it should adjourn sine die.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

478. 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 VEGETABLE PROTEINS

479. The Commission had before it the report of the Second 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.

Terms of Reference

480. Dr. Tape reported that the Committee's terms of reference were adopted with a minor modification to clarify coverage of protein source materials by replacing reference to specific sources with the phrase "any member of the plant kingdom".

481. Revised terms of reference now read "to elaborate definitions and worldwide standards for vegetable protein products deriving from any member of the plant kingdom as they come into use for human consumption, and to elaborate guidelines on utilization of such vegetable protein products in the food supply system, on nutritional requirements and safety, on labelling and on other aspects as they may seem appropriate". The Committee also affirmed responsibility for single cell protein under the terms of reference.

482. The Commission agreed to the modified terms of reference.

483. Dr. Tape also informed the Commission that the following subjects had been discussed:

- Protein Quality Measurement
- Quantitative Methods for the Differentiation of Vegetable and Animal Proteins
- Toxicity of Lysino-Alanine (LAL)

General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) in Foods

484. Dr. Tape informed the Committee that the General Guidelines had been reviewed at Step 2 of the Procedure.

485. There was considerable discussion leading to agreement that the document (with modifications) be advanced to Step 3.

486. In addition, the draft guidelines for testing safety and nutritional quality of vegetable proteins were reviewed and there was general agreement to retain them as Annex I to the above Guidelines.

487. A Working Group was appointed, led by the United Kingdom, to revise Annex I and present it for consideration by the Committee at its next session. Brazil, Canada and the USA agreed to participate.

Proposed Draft Standards for Vegetable Protein Flours, Vegetable Protein Concentrates and Vegetable Protein Isolates

488. After considerable discussion as to whether there should be a single standard or three separate standards for the three categories of products under consideration (flour, concentrate and isolate) it was agreed that:

- (i) There should be a general standard covering vegetable protein products from all sources, including soya beans (but excluding SCP);
- (ii) The mocked-up single standard, which had been prepared by the Canadian Delegation, would serve as the basis for the development of the general standard. The text would be regarded as being at Step 2;
- (iii) Development of a specific amalgamated standard for vegetable protein products derived from soya beans could proceed, provided that provisions in the general standard which were also applicable to soya protein products would be incorporated together with any provisions which were specific to the soya products.

(iv) The Committee would consider the development of specific standards for other vegetable protein products.

489. An Ad Hoc Working Group set up during the Second Session, developed a draft amalgamated standard for soya protein products, taking into account the provisions of the draft general standard.

490. After subsequent review of the Proposed Draft General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products it was agreed that the draft standard should be sent out to governments for comments at Step 3. Similarly, the proposed draft standards for soya protein products and wheat gluten were reviewed and sent to Step 3.

491. The Delegation of France underlined that it was appropriate to make reference to the methods of analysis standardized by ISO, wherever these exist, because of the agreements between the ISO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Future Programme of Work

492. The Commission noted that at its next session the Committee would have before it for consideration the following:

- Government comments on the re-circulated report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Protein Quality Measurement (CX/VP 82/3) (Canada);
- Report of current progress in quantitative methods for the differentiation of vegetable and animal proteins (Netherlands);
- Revision of Annex "Proposed Draft Guidelines for Testing Safety and Nutritional Quality of Vegetable Protein Products" to the Proposed Draft General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) in Foods. (Working Group, Coordinator UK, Brazil, Canada, USA);
- Background paper on protein from potatoes (Netherlands);
- Background paper and proposed Draft Standard for Vegetable Protein from Pulses (Working Group, Coordinator IPT and IC; Canada, France);
- Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Proteins in Foods - Step 4;
- Proposed Draft General Standard for VPP - Step 4;
- Proposed Draft Standard for Soy Proteins - Step 4;
- Proposed Draft Standard for Gluten - Step 4.

493. The Commission expressed its satisfaction to the Chairman of the CCVP on the progress made at the second session of the Committee.

494. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the CCVP to advance the General Guidelines for the Utilization of Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) in Foods and the Draft Standards for Vegetable Protein Products for Soy Proteins and for Wheat Gluten to Step 3 of the Procedure.

495. The Chairman of the Committee reminded the Commission of its earlier offer to assist developing countries with guidance and advice on such matters as processing technology, safety and nutritional value of indigenous vegetable proteins. To-date, no specific request had been made of the Committee for such assistance. The Delegation of Thailand expressed appreciation for this offer of technical support and indicated it would be contacting the Committee on Vegetable Proteins for information and advice on vegetable protein technology.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

496. 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.

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

497. The Report of the 20th Session of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products (CX 5/70 - 20th Session) was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. R.W. Weik of the USA, who gave an outline of the main achievements of the 20th Session of the Committee.

498. The Committee had embarked upon the revision of Standard No. A-2 - Milk Fat Products including Ghee, which was of considerable interest to certain developing countries.

499. The Committee did not embark upon the elaboration of a Standard for Imitation Milk and Imitation Milk Products, but adopted a revised version of Decision No. 6 dealing in more general terms with the compositional, hygienic and food additive aspects of these types of products.

500. On the subject of methods of sampling and methods of analysis, the Committee had received a report from representatives of IDF/ISO/AOAC on their work done in this field. Dr. Weik indicated that the Committee had been impressed with the excellent work carried out by these organizations in the field of analysis and sampling. The Committee was pleased to note that irrespective of the frequency of the meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products, the three organizations would meet on an annual basis to inform the Codex Secretariat about the progress made and to strengthen the cooperation between the organizations and the Milk Committee.

501. The Committee had recognized that there were a number of items of work (para. 106, CX 5/70 - 20th Session) still awaiting completion by it, and had considered it necessary to have another session to complete the work outstanding. The Committee had noted that the session would be held in 1986, subject to the approval of the Commission.

502. Concluding the presentation of the Report, Dr. Weik expressed the hope that the 8th Edition of the Code of Principles on Milk and Milk Products, including Cheese Standards, and Amendments to Standards as well as Acceptances would soon be published preferably in loose leaflet format in the Codex Alimentarius.

Matters Arising from the Report of the 20th Session of the Committee

General Guidelines for the Use of Milk Proteins in Non-Milk Products

503. The Commission noted the willingness of the Joint FAO/WHO Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles Concerning Milk and Milk Products to give information on the use of milk proteins to all Codex Committees who wished to include milk proteins of any kind in commodities of interest to them and if necessary to elaborate general guidelines for the purpose.

504. The Commission agreed to invite the views of Codex Commodity Committees on the need to elaborate such guidelines, which could be considered by the next session of the Commission.

Holding a Future Session of the Committee

505. The Delegations of Australia and New Zealand stated their view that the Committee should be adjourned sine die at this session of the Commission and any unfinished work be completed at Secretariat level. Delegations were reminded by the Delegation of New Zealand that the decision of the Thirteenth (1979) Session of the Commission was that the Committee would be adjourned after its Twentieth (1982) Session after completion of urgent unfinished work. The Commission, having noted that the Codex Secretariat would make provision within its budget for the biennium 1986/87 for holding one more session of the Committee (para. 108, CX 5/70 20th Session) to complete all the remaining items of work, approved the holding of a session of the Milk Committee in 1986. After the meeting in 1986, the Committee of Government Experts on the Code of Principles concerning Milk and Milk Products would be expected to adjourn sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SOUPS AND BROTHS

Acid Hydrolyzed Vegetable Proteins

506. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 83/33 and Add.1 containing comments concerning a draft standard for acid hydrolyzed vegetable proteins from Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Mexico, Poland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

507. Professor Dr. E. Matthey, the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths, introduced the above documents. He recalled that, at its 14th Session, the Commission had not been able to decide whether there was a need for such a standard and had, therefore, decided to request further comments from Governments. These additional comments, as contained in the above documents, had generally indicated that Governments considered the subject to be of low priority. Professor Dr. E. Matthey stated that the comments again appeared to be inconclusive. He repeated, however, Switzerland's offer to reconvene the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths in case the Commission decided to elaborate a standard for acid hydrolyzed vegetable proteins.

508. The Delegation of Canada, while considering the subject to be of low priority, offered also that the Committee on Vegetable Proteins could be called upon to elaborate such a standard.

509. The Commission concurred with the Chairman that at present no further work should be undertaken on the draft standard for acid hydrolyzed proteins as contained in Appendix 1 to ALINORM 83/33. The Commission also agreed that, if Member Countries indicated a substantial interest in the subject at a future session, it could be re-discussed at that time.

Confirmation of Chairmanship

510. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Soups and Broths should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of Switzerland. The Commission noted that the Committee had adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON SUGARS

511. The Commission had before it ALINORM 83/27, containing a progress report on the elaboration of methods of analysis for sugars and on lead limits, the two matters outstanding since the Committee had adjourned sine die. Miss M. Coales, acting as Rapporteur for the United Kingdom, introduced the Report.

512. On methods of analysis, a draft paper reviewing present methods of analysis had been prepared and would be sent shortly to ISO and ICUMSA for clearance. Once this was

obtained, Government comments would be sought and a final version would be submitted to the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling for endorsement.

513. On lead limits, following the request of the Codex Committee on Food Additives at its 14th Session the United Kingdom Secretariat had twice sought information from Governments (CL 1981/24 and CL 1982/36), with a view to reducing the limits at present in the standards. The results of this consultation had been discussed by the 16h Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives which had decided not to recommend any change but had requested the Secretariat to seek further information from Governments on the technological feasibility of reducing the existing lead levels so that a lower maximum level than 1 mg/kg could be set. The Secretariat to the Sugars Committee would be issuing such a request shortly.

514. The Delegation of Argentina stated that it could now agree to a reduction of the maximum lead level for white sugar to 0.5 mg/kg. The Commission took note.

Confirmation of the Chairmanship

515. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX. 10 that the Codex Committee on Sugars should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the United Kingdom. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

516. 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.

CODEX COMMITTEE ON EDIBLE ICES

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

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

CODEX COMMITTEE ON MEAT

Confirmation of Chairmanship of the Committee

519. The Commission confirmed under Rule IX.10 that the Codex Committee on Meat should continue to be under the Chairmanship of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. It noted that the Committee would remain adjourned sine die.

PART VIII

CODE OF ETHICS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOOD

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

520. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 83/38 Part I and ALINORM 83/38 Part I, Add.1 containing progress reports from the under-mentioned countries concerning the implementation of the Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 20 - 1979): Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, USA, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

521. The Commission noted that most of the countries that had replied had stated that the Code was an important document. Most countries had also indicated that the principles laid down in the Code were, by and large, already to be found in their national food law. These principles were also reflected in many cases in customary practices relating to the international food trade. The Commission also noted that several countries had brought the Code to the attention of the food industry including food distributors and exporters. A number of countries had had the Code translated into their national languages.

522. The particular attention of the Commission was drawn to the comments of Argentina. Argentina had stated that it did not find the Code to be acceptable because the Code appeared to be mandatory rather than advisory. The Secretariat pointed out that the Code was indeed advisory but that the translation of the word "should" in the Spanish version of the Code had the effect of making the Code appear mandatory. The word "should" had been translated as "deberá" and "deberán" instead of "debería" and "deberían". The Secretariat indicated that it would issue a corrigendum relating to the Spanish version of the Code. In the light of this explanation the Delegation of Argentina indicated that it would have no difficulty in finding the Code generally acceptable.

523. The Delegations of India, Ireland, Japan, Portugal and the USSR stated that in general the principles set out in the Code of Ethics were reflected in their national food legislation. Portugal had proposed a number of amendments to the Code of Ethics. The Commission decided to take no action at this time on the proposed amendments pending consideration of the proposals in document ALINORM 83/38 Part II to amend the Code of Ethics.

(ii) Proposal to Amend the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food

524. The Commission was reminded that the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food had been adopted by the Commission in 1979 and that it contained a reference to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes which was then still under elaboration by WHO and UNICEF. The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 1981. The Executive Committee, at its 29th Session in 1982, considered the relationship between the International Code and the Codex Code of Ethics. It requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper to bring the two Codes into line with each other with respect to the promotion and information concerning products covered by both instruments. This proposal is contained in ALINORM 83/38 Part II which was considered by the Executive Committee at its 30th Session. During this session Vice-Chairman Mr. Kimbrell submitted another proposal to amend paragraph 5.9 along the following lines:

"5.9 Foods for infants, children and other vulnerable groups should be in accordance with standards elaborated by the CAC".

The rest of paragraph 5.9 is to be deleted. WHO, while supporting this new proposal, thought that it would be useful to retain paragraph 5.9(b) of the Code of Ethics. The new text would incorporate Mr. Kimbrell's proposals together with paragraph 5.9(b), and reads as follows:

"5.9 Foods for infants, children and other vulnerable groups should be in accordance with standards elaborated by the CAC. No claims in any form should be permitted that would directly or indirectly encourage a mother not to breast-feed her child, or imply that breast-milk substitutes are superior to breast-milk".

After thorough discussion, which is recorded in ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 6-16, the Executive Committee: (i) agreed to have a new paragraph (g) added to the Preamble of the Codex Code of Ethics, which reads as follows:

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

(ii) accepted to have a consequential amendment in paragraph 5.10(b) of the Code of Ethics, which reads as follows:

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

(iii) concluded its discussions in agreeing that, while recognizing the importance of breast-feeding to the healthy growth and development of infants, it was not necessary to repeat in one international code what was already stated in another. The Executive Committee referred the question to the Commission for its consideration.

525. During the discussion of this topic by the Commission, the Delegations of Switzerland, Canada, New Zealand, United States of America, Thailand and Iraq shared the view of the Executive Committee, i.e. that it was not necessary to repeat in one international code what was clearly stated in another. These delegations, with the exception of Thailand, favoured the proposal made by Vice-Chairman Kimbrell to the Executive Committee. Thailand, on the other hand, indicated that it would not have any difficulty in accepting either proposal mentioned in paragraph 523 above.

526. The Delegation of India, supported by the Delegations of Iran and Tunisia, thought that the Code of Ethics should repeat the relevant paragraphs of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, in particular Article 5.1 concerning advertising and promotion, in order to be able to use the Code of Ethics also for the promotion and protection of breast-feeding. This the Indian Delegation considered to be one of the most important public health issues in developing countries. India had preferred the original version proposed by the Secretariat, contained in ALINORM 83/38 Part II, but stressed the need for more time to study the new proposals made by the Executive Committee.

527. The Chairman therefore proposed to the Commission to defer the final decision on the amendment of the Code of Ethics to the next session of the CAC, in asking (i) Governments to submit written statements regarding their position and (ii) Regional Coordinating Committees to discuss the issue during their forthcoming sessions. The Commission agreed with this proposal.

CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO AMEND THE CODEX STANDARD FOR TABLE OLIVES

528. The Commission had before it documents ALINORM 83/40 plus Addendum 1 and Conference Room Document LIM.14 containing the views of Governments on the question of whether there is a need to amend the Codex Standard for Table Olives. The Commission also had before it a document prepared by the IOOC including the details of the amendments proposed (CODEX/COI/OT/Rev.1).

529. In introducing the subject, the Secretariat indicated that the issue to be resolved by the Commission was the need, or otherwise, of initiating the procedure for the amendment of the Codex Standard for Table Olives, so that the revised IOOC Standard and the Codex Standard could be harmonized so far as minimum requirements were concerned. As regards the actual mechanism for considering the amendment, should the Commission decide that the amendment of the Codex Standard was necessary, this had been agreed by the 14th Session of the Commission (see para. 534, ALINORM 81/39). The procedure envisaged by the Commission at its 14th Session was to designate the IOOC as an appropriate "other body" for the purpose of dealing with the amendments, under Step 1 of the Procedure for the Elaboration of Worldwide Standards. The Commission noted that the 30th Session of the Executive Committee had decided to leave the question of whether there was a need to initiate the procedure for the amendment of the Codex Standard for Table Olives to the Commission.

530. The Delegation of the USA indicated that it was not in favour of initiating the amendment of the Standard for Table Olives and it wished to be informed as to the extent of the intended revision of the Codex Standard, since the IOOC Standard contained descriptions of commercial quality grades. The Delegation of Thailand stressed that the Codex Standard should contain provisions for consumer safety and minimum quality and should not be either a buyers' or a producers' standard but an international Codex Standard. The Delegation of Argentina expressed its disagreement with the amendment proposed by the IOOC for the reasons given in ALINORM 83/40.

531. The Observer for the IOOC informed the Commission that the need for the amendment of the previous IOOC Standard, which had been in line with the Codex Standard as regards minimum quality requirements, had arisen from recent developments in methods of processing. Furthermore, the present Codex Standard had been accepted only by very few countries which indicated that it did not fully correspond to the needs of producing and importing countries. The Observer from the IOOC added that the IOOC would carry out, in accordance with the Codex procedures, a detailed study of the Codex Standard leading to a revised standard which would find greater acceptance by Governments.

532. The Delegation of Tunisia, supported by the Delegations of France, Spain, Portugal, Algeria and the Observer from the EEC, were in favour of initiating the amendment procedure in relation to the Codex Standard for Table Olives.

533. The Commission decided that the Codex Standard for Table Olives needed to be amended and, therefore, authorized the setting in motion of the amendment procedure. The Delegation of the United States was opposed to this decision. The Commission confirmed that the work of amending the standard be entrusted to the IOOC and designated the IOOC as an appropriate "other body" for this purpose under Step 1 of the Procedure. It was understood that invitations to sessions of the IOOC at which this subject would be considered would be issued to all Member Countries of FAO and WHO and that the working languages would be English, French and Spanish. The Commission also wished to emphasize that the purpose of amending the Codex Standard was to harmonize the Codex and the revised IOOC Standards with respect to the minimum requirements only.

PART IX

FUTURE WORK

Packaging Materials for Food

534. The Delegation of Norway stated that, at various times, the question of the evaluation of packaging materials and health risks from chemicals migrating into foods from packaging materials had been raised in the Commission without any definite action being taken.

535. Norway considered that because different countries were adopting different approaches to this matter, and also because consumer concerns were being voiced to an ever increasing degree, it was now of importance that the Codex Alimentarius Commission take a good look at the situation.

536. The Delegation of Norway stated that some work had already been done in this area and that limited attention was to be given to some substances of concern in the CCFA. Nevertheless, Norway would like to propose that the Codex Secretariat be asked to investigate the possibilities of engaging a consultant to review the situation, including the various approaches adopted so far: health concerns; work already being done; and feasibility of Codex activities.

537. The Delegation of Norway suggested that a concise report could then be presented to the Commission at its next session, with recommendations as to the action which is appropriate, and as to work which should be done, and by whom. The Delegation of Norway added that Norway had always been in favour of international action on packaging materials, preferably within the Codex system.

538. Several delegations strongly supported the proposal of the Delegation of Norway. The Delegation of Thailand stated that it was important that the review or survey to be carried out by a consultant should cover everything from cans to flexible packaging. The Delegation of Switzerland stated that attention would need to be given to the work done in the Council of Europe in regard to plastic packaging materials. The Delegation of the United Kingdom wondered whether this work, which would cover cans, plastic packaging materials, etc., would be entirely appropriate for Codex to deal with. It was stated in reply that the situation was completely open at this stage, and that there would be ample opportunity for a full debate on the matter when all the material had been assembled by a consultant. The Observer from the EEC stated that a copy of the EEC Directive on Packaging Materials would be made available to the Secretariat.

539. The Commission agreed that a consultant should be engaged to prepare a report on packaging materials for foods along the lines suggested by the Delegation of Norway in paragraphs 535-536 above. The report should also review the legislative position of the different countries on this subject. It was agreed that the report should be sent out to Governments for their comments well in advance of the 16th Session of the Commission. The report together with Government comments on it should be considered by the Commission at its 16th Session.

FREQUENCY OF SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

540. The Commission had before it document ALINORM 83/28. The Commission noted that this document had been considered by the Executive Committee at its 30th Session (ALINORM 83/4, paragraphs 46-48). The Commission decided that for a number of practical reasons the present practice of holding sessions every twenty to twenty-four months should be maintained.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF CODEX SESSIONS 1984-85

541. The Committee had before it document ALINORM 83/31. The Delegation of the United States of America advised the Commission that the Fourth Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes would be held from 24 to 28 September 1984, to be followed by the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to be held from 1 to 5 October 1984. The Delegation of Cuba recalled that Minister Rodés (Cuba) had been appointed Coordinator for Latin America and that it had become the established practice to hold sessions of the Coordinating Committees in the country of the Coordinator. The Delegation of Cuba indicated that it was the intention to convene the next (3rd) Session of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America in Havana in late March or during April 1984, the precise date to be fixed in consultation with the Secretariat. It was also the intention to hold the 4th Session of the Coordinating Committee in Havana at a suitable time, to be fixed with the Secretariat, during the first four months of 1985.

542. The Delegation of Switzerland informed the Commission that the next session of the Coordinating Committee for Europe would be held in Switzerland probably from 11 to 15 June 1984.

543. The Commission noted that there would be no need for the Codex Committee on General Principles to meet during the 1984/85 biennium. The Commission also noted that the Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate would not meet during the biennium, as it had adjourned sine die.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO CONCERNING THE NEED FOR CODEX STANDARDS FOR TROPICAL AND SUB-TROPICAL FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

544. The Delegation of Mexico made an intervention in regard to Agenda Item 8 - "Report on Need for and Feasibility of Developing Codex Standards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables of Particular Interest, from a Trade Point of View, to Developing Countries" (ALINORM 83/7). Although the Commission had concluded its discussions on this item, it was agreed that the statement of the Delegation of Mexico could be included in the record. The statement of the Delegation of Mexico was as follows:

"In the light of the contents of the report of the Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes, and specifically that of the document ALINORM 83/29 - 30(e) - sub-paragraph (ii); we consider that: The point to which we are referring also has to do with the postponement granted by this Commission with regard to Agenda Item 8; an agreement which, seen in the light of the positions expressed by the different delegations, appears to us disconcerting, since in principle there was common agreement in favour of the elaboration of Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables by those developing countries which are traditionally exporters of these products

Moreover, the arguments against presented, mainly, by the developed countries, refer more to the appropriate mechanism for their elaboration than to the decision itself on the need for their elaboration. We consider this a very fine point of argument at this time and of primary importance for us. We consider that, since the matter under discussion, as its name indicates, refers to products of particular interest for developing countries, the opinion of these countries should receive particular consideration in the taking of decisions in this specific case.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether at this point the position agreed by this distinguished Commission may be in any way reconsidered; however, if this is not possible, we wish to record our perplexity on this point. Bearing in mind what has been said previously on this subject by the Committee, and the Commission's mandate to promote the coordination of all work on food standards at international level, we do not think that this work should be postponed".

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

545. The Delegation of Nigeria expressed its appreciation of the valuable work being done by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, especially for developing countries, which was complementary to the achievements of the goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. The Delegation of Nigeria referred to the recommendations of the recently held Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety and stressed the importance of technical cooperation in the field of food safety.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

546. On the occasion of the attendance for the first time at a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission of a delegation from the People's Republic of China, the Delegation made a statement which is attached as Appendix VII to this Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Proposal to Amend Rule VI.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission

547. The Chairman recalled that this matter had come up for consideration earlier in the session (see paragraphs 101-103). The Chairman indicated that he had been advised that the number of Members of the Commission attending the session was not sufficient to constitute the required quorum. The Commission decided, therefore, to put the matter on the agenda of its next session.

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OPENING ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF FAO AND WHO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
BY MR. G.O. KERMODE, CHIEF, FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a particular pleasure for me to have the privilege of opening the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO. Dr. Saouma and Dr. Mahler are unable to be present today. They are attending an important session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva. As you know the heads of the UN Agencies normally participate in regular sessions of ECOSOC and on this occasion there are items concerning hazardous substances and consumer protection before ECOSOC which are of interest to your Commission. Dr. Saouma has asked me to convey his best wishes for the success of your session and to extend his personal welcome to you to FAO Headquarters. I would also like to extend the apologies of FAO's Deputy Director-General, Mr. West, who is on duty travel.

On entering FAO this morning I was asked if your Secretariat knew the significance of the 4th of July. How can your Secretariat not know. Today is the 20th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The first session of the Commission was concluded twenty years ago today.

The Anniversary gives me the theme for my opening address. You, Mr. Chairman, will I know say a great deal about what the Commission's Executive Committee and subsidiary bodies have been doing since the last session of the Commission and will also be giving us the benefit of your thoughts for the future. I, on the other hand, would like to dwell a little upon the history of the Commission and remind you why and how it was set up and how it has functioned. I would also like to draw your attention to some quite unique features of its manner of working as an international governmental negotiating body and in fact the only joint commission of its kind within the UN system.

The first session of the Commission was attended by some 120 participants from 30 countries and 16 international organizations. None of these countries were members of the Commission, they met to determine the nature and purpose of the Commission, to develop and adopt rules of procedure, to draw up a programme of work and take steps to initiate its activities. Much of the first session was devoted to establishing the Commission's Rules of Procedure. The discussions were long and detailed but what seemed to be of paramount importance to the "founding fathers", if I may call them so, was that Rules of Procedure of the Commission should be flexible but precise, democratic but decisive, clear in reflecting the intention of the Member States of FAO and WHO and including authority to permit the Commission to establish Principles and Objectives of the Codex Alimentarius, to lay down working procedures for the elaboration of international standards and codes of practice which would be consistent with fair trading practices and impartial to the interests of all Members of the Commission.

A unique and continuing feature of the Commission's method of working, initiated at its first session, was the concept of Member Governments hosting and chairing subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Working partnerships have grown up between the Commission's Secretariat and the National Secretariats of the Codex Committees. These have obviously been financially very advantageous to the Member States of FAO and WHO. They have brought a wealth of scientific, technical and economic expertise to the work of the Codex Committees and to the Commission. The Host Government system has facilitated the Commission's ability to set up new committees and to adjourn sine die Committees which have completed their tasks.

The early sessions of the Commission were extremely interesting. The first three or four years in the life of the Commission were spent laying the foundations for much of the Commission's success. They saw the commencement of its work on standardization of foods and on general matters applicable to all foods. Senior officials attended from many different government departments. Some of these had even been at the founding Conference of FAO. A number were Ministers or former Ministers, senior cabinet advisers, permanent heads of ministries and departments. Many of them had seen at first hand problems of hunger and famine. They had witnessed the world slowly recovering from the ravages of world war. They were strongly motivated in the wish to see as a primary objective of the Commission, action to ensure the safety and quality of food for the consumer as well as facilitation of international trade in food by the reduction of non-tariff barriers and the harmonization of basic requirements and definitions of food. Their wish from the outset was that the Commission should be a truly worldwide body with ideals and objectives acceptable to all peoples of the world. Their foresight and hard work has put this Commission in good standing. I do believe it is striving to live up to their aspirations and hopefully will continue to do so. Today we are fortunate to have in our presence a number of people who attended the Commission's first session, our distinguished Coordinator for Europe, Prof. Dr. H. Woidich of Austria, Prof. Russell Allen of the United Kingdom, Dr. Richard Wildner from Austria and Mr. P.F. Jensen from Denmark, who have been active participants throughout the life of the Commission.

I have spoken about the worldwide nature of the Commission's activities. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the representatives of the People's Republic of China, who are attending the Commission for the first time in an observer capacity. I am sure I speak on behalf of the Commission that we hope that after attendance at this session China will give consideration to becoming a member. It is certainly the feeling within FAO and WHO that once China is a member of the Commission, it can really claim to be a worldwide body.

I would also like to mention that we have two senior and distinguished persons in our midst this morning. We have the Minister of Standardization of Cuba, Ing. Roman Darias Rodes and also the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, Mr. C.W. McMillan. Both of these gentlemen are well-acquainted with the activities of the Codex and take a close interest in the activities of this Commission even if it is only infrequently that their other duties permit them to be with us.

I would like to close my remarks by saying how pleased we are to see so many people attending this session. I would also like to express FAO and WHO's appreciation to you Mr. Chairman. Your thirteen years participation in the Executive Committee of the Commission in various capacities has ensured a continuity of purpose and as a lawyer you kept the Commission and its Secretariat on the straight and narrow in respect of its rules of procedures. FAO and WHO would like to record their appreciation to those governments who have so generously supported the programme over the years by hosting Codex and Coordinating Committees. Without that support the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme would not have achieved its prominent position in international food standardization and certainly would not have been able to publish finally the "Codex Alimentarius".

I have great pleasure on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in declaring open the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on its Twentieth Anniversary.

REPLY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
TO OPENING SPEECH BY THE CHIEF OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

Mr. Kermode, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you, Mr. Kermode, for having opened, on behalf of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I have listened with great interest to what you have said, and I am sure the Commission has also.

Like Mr. Kermode, I too wish to extend a warm welcome to all participants of this anniversary session, particularly to those who are participating at a session of the Commission for the first time. I am very pleased to note that we have with us for the first time a delegation from the People's Republic of China. China is not entirely a stranger to Codex work, because it sent delegations to the recent sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. For the time being, the People's Republic of China is participating in the capacity of an observer, but I do hope it will not be long before China decides to become a Member of the Commission.

The first session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held in Rome 20 years ago - in July 1963. The session was attended by 30 countries and 16 international organizations, with a total participation of some 120 persons. About twice that number of countries and international organizations and more than three times the number of participants will attend the current session. Membership of the Commission has increased equally spectacularly from some 30 countries in 1963 to 122 countries in 1983. These facts clearly point to the continued and growing interest throughout the world in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, covering now more than three-quarters of the members of the United Nations.

Looking back over the past 20 years, one can say that the early years of the Commission were largely devoted to developing the rules of procedure of the Commission, the general principles of the Codex Alimentarius, the establishment of the Commission's many technical subsidiary bodies to carry out its programme of work, and the establishment of the Commission's working procedures, including the procedures for the elaboration of its standards. In short, the Commission established what I would call a very firm foundation for the pursuit of its work, with clear working procedures acceptable to all.

The first standards were adopted by the Commission in 1968. Since then the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies have developed close on 190 international standards and some 40 codes of practice, guidelines and other texts covering a very wide range of food products moving in international trade. In addition, a great number of international maximum limits for pesticide residues have also been developed and, like the standards, have been sent to governments for acceptance. Many specifications for the identity and purity of food additives have been approved by the Commission. In the area of food chemicals, the Commission has published a Guide to the Safe Use of Food Additives, a Guide to Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues and a List of Recommended Maximum Levels for Contaminants in Food - publications which, of course, need to be revised and up-dated from time to time. A Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food aimed at preventing countries which do not yet have adequate food control infrastructures from being the recipients of hazardous, or falsely labelled, or otherwise sub-standard food

products, has been published by the Commission and sent to governments for consideration with a view to implementation. We shall, as you know, be discussing this subject under a specific agenda item during the course of the Session. The Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, which was adopted by the World Health Assembly, contains several references to the technical work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the area of standards for foods for infants and children. Likewise the GATT Code on Technical Barriers to Trade makes specific reference to the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Commission's mandate is not only to develop standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations. According to its statutes, the Commission has also been entrusted with the task of promoting the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The considerable number of seventy-seven international organizations is contained in a paper before the Commission, as being of direct interest to the Commission's task of coordination of food standards work. This, I think, demonstrates clearly, besides other things, that the Codex Alimentarius Commission is the leading institution in the world in the field of food standards and related work.

There is no doubt but that the Commission has produced a tremendous amount of material and recommendations of interest to governments and industry. Although most of the technical expertise has been and continues to be provided by the delegations themselves who participate in Codex Committee Sessions, a great deal of the expertise has also been provided by the very large number of international bodies and organizations specialized in various technical fields which collaborate with the Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contribution to the development of the Commission's recommendations and to thank them for their cooperation.

The standards, codes of practice and other texts of the Codex Alimentarius Commission constitute a sound basis for national food legislation everywhere and should be of particular value to developing countries which are building up their national food laws. But there is also, in my opinion, a considerable "pioneering aspect" to the work of the Commission. Many countries and, indeed, economic groupings look to see what is happening in Codex fora on topics of major current interest before adopting or revising national or community laws. Examples of such topics are the current work of revising the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods, the work on date-marking, the work on nutrition labelling and fortification of foods, and the work on vegetable proteins and food irradiation.

Although the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its different kinds of subsidiary bodies - there are 27 subsidiary bodies in all - assisted by the specialized knowledge and technical recommendations of several expert committees, is quite a complex structure, still it has proved itself to be very adaptable to changing needs and circumstances. The wide variety of product standards developed over the years reflect the wishes of the Commission at various points in time.

In recent years the Commission decided to place increased emphasis on the needs and concerns of developing countries. Two new Codex Committees - the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes and the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins - were established. The work of these two Committees should be of particular interest to developing countries from the point of view of trade and nutrition. You can also see from the agendas and reports of other Codex Committees the increased emphasis on standards and codes of practice for products of interest to developing countries, such as, for example, tropical vegetable oils, tropical fruits and tropical fruit juices, foods for infants and children, groundnuts, smoked and salted fish, frog legs, wheat flour, maize grains, and sorghum and

millet. Moreover, the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues has established a special Working Group to deal with the problems of developing countries.

There have been shifts of emphasis also as regards the procedure for the elaboration and amendment of standards. The procedure has now been shortened and streamlined in order to reduce the amount of time it takes to develop a standard. This was done by the Commission in response initially to views expressed by the Coordinating Committee for Asia. It is important to note that the procedure was shortened without, however, reducing the opportunities for adequate consideration by government and industry of the standards, whilst they are still in draft form.

Another change in the procedure for the elaboration of standards was the inclusion of safeguards to protect the economic interests of the member countries. If there are any provisions in a draft standard which give rise to concern in any country from the point of view of economic implications, the country concerned has the opportunity, at several stages in the elaboration procedure, to submit its comments on the economic implications to the Codex Committee developing the standard or to the Commission, whichever is appropriate. The revised Guidelines for Codex Committees require Committee Chairmen to give particular attention to such economic impact statements. In providing for these safeguards, we must not, however, overlook the fact that the Commission has to operate within the framework of its Statutes. That means that it has the fundamental task of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

Another development of particular interest to developing countries was the establishment of Regional Coordinating Committees for Africa, Asia and Latin America in the 1970s. Their original terms of reference have been extensively widened. Some of them are developing standards for products of importance in intra-regional trade as well as for staple items of traditional diets. All of them are providing very useful fora for determining food quality and safety control needs and for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries within the regions. There is no doubt that the Coordinating Committees have had and continue to have a very significant impact on the programme of work of the Commission. Whilst as much as possible should be done to promote the work of the Regional Codex Coordinating Committees, it is very important in the first place for the countries themselves in the different regions to make known their views and wishes through actual participation in the meetings of the Coordinating Committees. That means: the developing countries should be more aware of this instrument to articulate their needs and interests.

The work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is, of course, for the benefit of all Member Nations of FAO and WHO. However, some Member Nations are less well equipped than others to derive full benefit from the work of the Commission. Those less well equipped countries need technical advice and assistance to enable them to strengthen their capabilities to ensure better food handling, better quality and safety of food through food control and to implement, as far as feasible in their own circumstances, the Commission's recommendations. FAO through its projects on food control and consumer protection and WHO through its food safety activities, play a very important role in providing such assistance which is complementary to and furthers the work of the Commission. I shall not go into any detail about the important complementary activities of FAO and WHO, as during the session you will be hearing about them. Suffice it to say that there are many activities in FAO and WHO which have strongly supported the work of this Commission and continue to do so. Much is happening in both organizations, very often on a joint basis, in the fields of food safety and food control, which is indispensable to the work of the Commission. I need only refer to the Expert Groups in the fields of food additives and pesticide residues and the expert consultations in the field of food hygiene to illustrate

this. A very recent development of interest has been a meeting last month in Geneva of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety. All of us look forward to hearing about this meeting during the course of the session. A conference room document summarizing the conclusions of the Expert Committee has been made available.

Now I would like to say a few words on the subject of acceptances of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues. You will all have read the Report of the July 1982 session of the Executive Committee, in which the Committee urged all Members of the Commission to make a special effort towards accepting the Codex standards or, where acceptance was not feasible, to respond in an otherwise favourable manner, such as, for example, notifying the Secretariat that products in conformity with Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues will be permitted to be distributed freely within their territorial jurisdictions. The Executive Committee also stressed the importance of Codex recommendations as a basis for domestic legislation in developing countries. The Executive Committee further expressed the hope that the issue of the various volumes of the Codex Alimentarius would stimulate more countries to accept Codex recommendations or, at least, to permit entry of products in conformity with them.

Volumes II to VIII of the Codex Alimentarius have been issued in all three languages of the Commission. Volumes IX to XII have very recently been issued in English, to be followed shortly, I understand, by the French and Spanish versions. I also understand that Volume I of the Codex Alimentarius, which will not contain any standards but will be a general review of the extent of Codex work, the rationale for this work and the benefits to be derived therefrom, will be issued towards the end of the year. I am also told that Volume XIII of the Codex Alimentarius, containing all maximum limits for pesticide residues adopted up to and including the Fourteenth Session of the Commission, is currently being processed and will also be issued in a few months time.

Acceptances are continuing to come in, as you will hear shortly from the Secretariat. But they do not come in to the extent that one might reasonably have hoped for. Of course, we are all aware of the importance of the Codex recommendations as authoritative reference material, and we know that they are valued and used as such. Nevertheless we must remember that one of the main reasons for the existence of the Food Standards Programme is the need to remove non-tariff barriers to trade represented by differing national or community food regulations. Now that the Codex Alimentarius is being published, and with the continued efforts of the Secretariat to secure more acceptances, I do hope that by the time of the next session of the Commission there will be a marked improvement in the situation, either in terms of acceptances or in terms of statements that products meeting Codex standards and maximum limits for pesticide residues will be allowed free entry. As the Chief of the Programme said in his recent letter which he addressed to all Member Countries, many countries including, in particular, developing countries would like to use Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues for trading purposes. It is not unnatural that these countries should look to those countries which have participated actively from the start in the development of the standards, and which have, over the years, patiently negotiated international standards of quality and safety, to give a lead in the acceptance of the standards which they themselves have developed. We shall be hearing more about this important topic during the session.

Finally, it is my hope and my wish that this Fifteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will contribute to an even better understanding between its participants, both in their official and personal relations and to this end will strengthen the links within the community of nations.

I join with Mr. Kermode in wishing you a very pleasant stay in this beautiful city of Rome and a very successful session.

STATEMENT BY MR. C.W. MCMILLAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, UNITED STATES
DELEGATION

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to participate in the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which also happens to coincide with the celebration of our independence. This agenda item provides me an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to the goals of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We look to the Commission as the international group with the scientific, technical, and professional capability to address and solve food standards issues. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the United States considers the Codex program the primary organization for the promotion of food safety and consumer protection internationally.

The United States has given strong support to the Codex program since its inception. As was indicated under Item 4, the United States has made considerable progress in completing action on documents distributed to governments for acceptance. We are proud of our progress and pledge that every effort will be made to continue consideration of the remaining Codex documents at an accelerated rate. Mr. Chairman, similar action by other countries is welcomed and is essential if the fruits of our efforts are to be fully realized.

Consideration and acceptance is important and necessary because Codex standards and codes will enhance exports by preventing and solving technical barriers to trade. Benefits accrue through the private sector which explains their strong interest and contribution to the Codex program. It also explains why the private sector's use of Codex standards in international trade will ultimately determine the degree of success of the Codex program. The Codex program's positive impact on worldwide trade in foodstuffs can help achieve strong economies which is a universal goal of governments. This brings us to the subject of other international organizations operating to standardize foods and related matters similar to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Frankly, we are somewhat concerned about some of the overlap which exists. I applaud the Codex and its efforts to avoid overlap and duplication. But, there are activities which concern us in the United Nations framework. Recently, a proposed draft of guidelines for consumer protection was distributed through the United Nations. That document which was referred to ECOSOC for consideration addressed many issues already considered in Codex regarding food products. Also, a separate proposal to prepare a consolidated list of products harmful to health and the environment would have applied to food additives, pesticide residues, and other contaminants. That concerns us. When United States personnel approached the staff people preparing the paperwork necessary to pursue these issues and mentioned the work of Codex they indicated that they had never heard of Codex. I make this point to emphasize that perhaps the Codex should undertake to expand the knowledge and understanding of its programs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I applaud this group and its efforts to control its budget. The funding system places primary emphasis directly on governments. By adjourning committees when their work is accomplished and by maintaining a non-expanding efficient secretariat, the Codex Commission is unique. It gets maximum use of its funds and it benefits all countries. It stays up to date in food law activities and well it must. As knowledge and technology change, so must our regulatory activities change. Codex plays a key part and we strongly support it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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APPENDIX V

STATEMENT BY MR. RAMON DARIAS RODES, MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN STATE COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION, METROLOGY AND QUALITY CONTROL EXPERTS FROM THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO BE GIVEN AT THE XV PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, ROME, ITALY, 4-15 JULY, 1983

Esteemed Prof. Dr. Eckert, President of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,

Distinguished Representatives of the Member States of the Commission,

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me, in the first place, to greet you by expressing our satisfaction for participating in this XV Period of Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius, in the common effort to achieve concrete results allowing to advance the work of the Organization, that of International Standardization and, in particular, that of Food Standardization.

At the same time, we want to show our gratitude to the Board of the Commission and, particularly, to Mr. G. O. Kermode, Head of the Joint FAO/WHO Programme on Food Standards, for the opportunity they have given us to use this Forum to accomplish the duty of reporting on the antecedents, achievements, results, and agreements taken at the First Meeting of Experts in Standardization, Metrology, and Quality Control from the Non-Aligned Countries' Movement and other Developing Countries, which was held in Havana, from 28 to 30 September, 1981.

Thus, I fulfill Agreement 24 of the said Meeting, the mandate of which has provided our country with the responsibility of giving this information before those international organizations concerned with standardization, metrology and quality control.

In such direction, we have to emphasize, in the first place, that strengthening of economic cooperation relations among States constitutes a significant factor in the economic and social development of our peoples, as well as an important element for ensuring world peace.

Taking these judgements into account, the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government from the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana in 1979, affirmed that it was essential to strengthen the Movement's Programme of Action for Mutual Economic

Cooperation, and also stated that its implementation needed to be hastened through the adoption of more dynamic measures, particularly realistic and viable plans and proposals which are of interest to developing countries, and through national initiatives and joint efforts in connection with those political measures that would contribute to improve the quality and effectiveness of this Programme.

Based on this premise, in the Final Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, in February 1981, it has been stated that "... Taking into account the role played by standardization, metrology and quality control activities in the processes of industrialization, technology transfer, and industrial cooperation among developing countries, as well as their importance to encourage and promote trade relations, the Ministers welcomed with pleasure the creation of a working group from member countries interested in drawing up a Programme of Action for Cooperation among Non-Aligned Countries in this Sphere".

It was also added that "... In this regard, the Ministers acknowledged that the rapid progress attained by developing countries in this sphere constitutes an essential component of the efforts made for implementing a new International Economic Order. Accordingly, the Foreign Ministers charged the working group with the task of submitting concrete proposals to the Coordinating Bureau for the Drafting of a Cooperation Programme for the Sphere of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control to be adopted at the Seventh Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government from Non-Aligned Countries".

The said working group was then constituted by India, Yugoslavia, and Cuba, who became coordinating countries in this sphere.

In order to fulfill the task imposed, such countries made consultations, in which it was decided to convene the First Meeting of Experts in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control from Non-Aligned and other developing Countries, which had to be held in Havana City, in September 1981.

As a result of this decision, the Meeting of Experts, which was attended by 29 countries and 2 international organizations, United Nations Development Programme (PNUD), and International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), was held in the foreseen date. The Codex Alimentarius Commission was invited to participate in the event but, unfortunately, none of its officials could attend it due to justified reasons.

At the Meeting, a general debate on the role played by Standardization, Metrology, and Quality Control regarding the establishment of a new International Economic Order, and the need for coordinating the efforts and strengthening the involvement of Non-Aligned Countries in those international organizations concerned with these activities, took place.

It was pointed out the particular importance given to these activities by developing countries to attain their industrialization, technology transfer, agricultural and industrial cooperation goals, and to increase their involvement in international trade under fair economic conditions.

When making a balance of the present situation and the role played by Standardization in the international arena, it could be noted how International Standards, in general, do not take into consideration the economic interests and possibilities of developing countries, this placing them in an open disadvantage as to their possibilities of competing in the international market with favourable results.

It was thus noted how all this is linked to the use of standards by developed countries and, in a very special way, by transnational enterprises as an instrument of penetration in the economies of developing countries.

It was also pointed out how the latter are now facing great difficulties regarding acquisition, adaptation, development, and diffusion of industrial technology, given their limited economic and technological possibilities, which does not give a margin to choose appropriate options so that, therefore, they are subject to the impositions of transnational enterprises in many cases.

Moreover, it was considered the imperious need for developing countries to gain greater representativity in international organizations concerned with standardization, metrology and quality control activities, and for each of them to have a national structure allowing them to obtain effective results from their participation in the works of such organizations.

At the same time, it was evidenced the importance of training and general education in matters of standardization, metrology, and quality control to increase comprehension level of these activities and their incidence on the economic and social development of each country.

At the Meeting of Experts, the Programme of Action for Cooperation among Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries in the Sphere of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control was submitted to discussion and finally agreed.

It considers its main guidelines the following:

- 1. Research on problems of Standardization, metrology and quality control in Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries;*
- 2. Formulation of a common strategy for Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries for an effective participation in the work carried out by international organizations concerned with standardization, metrology and quality control;*
- 3. Exchange of scientific and technical standards and standard-type documentation relating to standardization, metrology and quality control;*
- 4. Organization of technical assistance in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control;*
- 5. Training and upgrading of specialists in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control;*
- 6. Setting-up and improvement of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control systems and their material base;*
- 7. Organization and development of certifying systems for production quality;*
- 8. Harmonization of national standards, metrological standards and technical regulations;*
- 9. Formulation of a common strategy on Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control for the prevention and removal of technical - barriers to trade among nations;*
- 10. Implementation of educational and information programmes dealing with Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control at the grassroots level in Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries.*

Some mechanisms were also discussed and agreed at the Meeting of Experts, so as to be used in monitoring and coordinating in the future the works to be carried out in the Sphere, among which are the following:

- dissemination of information to those countries interested in the Programme of Action;
- performance of bilateral and multilateral negotiations in order to send consultants to those countries interested in the development of these activities, as required;
- coordination of interests of developing countries participating in the international organizations in charge of programming these activities;
- organization of periodical meetings of developing countries interested in the Programme of Action for monitoring the implementation of its earlier decisions and formulating new areas, forms, and ways of cooperation.

Besides, the Meeting welcomed with pleasure Nicaragua's desire to join the group of Coordinating Countries in this Sphere, and invited other nations to follow the same line, since it will be of benefit for the whole work to be developed in this regard.

Finally, it was agreed that the Second Meeting of Experts in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control from Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries would be held after the Seventh Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government approved the Programme of Action, and a preliminary meeting of Coordinating Countries was also held in order to prepare this Second Meeting.

As it can be noted, the analysis made on the need for developing countries to put forward Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control activities in order to develop their economies emphasizes particularly important subjects. Among them, we can find the increase of their involvement in the tasks of International Standardization and, specially, in the International Organization framework.

Deeply engaged in this objective, the Meeting of Experts held in Havana urged these international organizations to contribute with a drive towards the participation of our countries in their works, by taking different effective and concrete measures leading to this purpose.

Among these measures, Non-Aligned Countries have pointed out the convenience to their national standardization, metrology and quality control organizations of getting greater representativity in the management bodies from international organizations; receiving an increased financial support by these organizations through the increase

of free technical assistance or under advantageous economic conditions, scientific and technical information, and materials for teaching these activities; total or partial financing of investments designed to create or reinforce the material base of these countries, and a greater amount of fellowships for these nations concerning the formation and upgrading of specialized staff.

Thus, Non-Aligned Countries have expressed their interest in receiving facilities from international organizations in order to establish previous unofficial contacts leading to identify their needs and problems when holding events of international organizations. Likewise, it was considered to be a great opportunity to request those international organizations linked to these activities to include in their official publications information regarding the results of this Meeting of Experts in Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control from the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as a dynamic and effective way to make people aware of our interests and to raise the consciousness about the problems we are now facing.

The agreements reached at the Meeting of Experts held in Havana were further ratified and enriched by different events of the Movement. Among them, we could mention the following:

- IV Meeting of Coordinating Countries for the Economic Cooperation Programme, held in Havana from 8 to 13 March, 1982, which was attended by 51 countries and 7 international organizations.
- II Meeting of Coordinating Countries for the Sphere of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control, held in New Delhi, India, from 19 to 21 May, 1982.
- Ministerial Meeting of the Movement's Coordinating Bureau, held in Havana, from 31 May to 4 June, 1982, with the participation of 70 countries, 7 international organizations, and many observers.

Lastly, the Final Report of the Meeting of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Experts, held in Havana, was approved by the Seventh Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government from Non-Aligned Countries, which took place in New Delhi, India, in March 1983, with the participation of 99 countries and 24 international organizations.

After having stated that the progress made by developing countries will significantly contribute to their economic and political stability, the Seventh Summit Conference pointed out that it constitutes also a fundamental element to succeed in the re-establishment of the international

economic relations. Besides, the Conference emphasized the need of strengthening the mutual cooperation, and urged the countries to implement hastily and in a fixed term the Programme of Action for Cooperation in this Sphere.

At the same time, the incorporation to this Sphere of two new countries, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and Irak, as Coordinators, was warmly welcomed.

Esteemed Colleagues:

In considering the convenience of submitting a report on the tasks carried out by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries in this direction to the international organization linked with these activities, it was considered necessary to present these elements to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, taking into account the great importance of its work, while its standardization object, that is, food, constitutes the main basis for the economic development of the great majority of developing countries.

In the middle of the serious situation of nourishment on a world-wide basis, the efforts made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to help developing countries in giving an impulse to the tasks of food standardization have been widely recognized, as a way that contributes conclusively, in this particular case, towards strengthening and developing their economies.

In fact, the Organization has taken some actions aimed at facilitating and increasing the participation of our States in the works linked with international food standardization.

Specially after the XII Period of Sessions, when the Commission decided to reconsider its course of action in the sense of paying a greater attention to the interests and needs of developing countries, we have noticed the implementation of measures aiming at the materialization of such purposes in the framework of a climate which recognizes the need of harmonizing more the work of the Commission with the problems and difficulties of our economies, so that it will be possible to attain a greater participation of developing countries in these tasks and to obtain consequently the benefits that should be derived from it.

There is no doubt that the Commission will be receptive to the efforts being made by Non-Aligned and other developing countries and, in this sense, we trust that these goals be attained, contributing in this way to strengthen the activities of the international standardization organizations and, in particular, those of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to increase the actions of Non-Aligned Countries in such tasks, and in their mutual cooperation relations. At the same time, it should mean a modest contribution towards the achievement of a more equitable international economic order, and to the establishment of equality relations which increasingly lead to an international climate of peace and security for all the States.

Thank you very much.

ALINORM 83/43
APPENDIX VI

REPORT OF AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON
QUICK FROZEN FOODS

1. An ad hoc Working Group was established by the Commission to consider the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Carrots and the Draft International Code of Practice for the Handling of Quick Frozen Food during Transport, both of which were before the Commission at Steps 7 and 8. The Working Group met on 5 July 1983 under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. van der Meys (Netherlands), and was attended by representatives of the delegations of Austria; Cuba; Federal Republic of Germany; Japan; Mexico; Netherlands; Switzerland; United Kingdom and United States of America.

2. The Working Group was aware that it had been called upon to make recommendations to the Commission on the above-mentioned texts in lieu of the Joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Group of Experts on Standardization of Quick Frozen Foods, which had adjourned sine die, and that there had been very few precedents for this procedure.

A. DRAFT STANDARD FOR QUICK-FROZEN CARROTS (at Step 7)

3. The Working Group had before it the Draft Standard, ALINORM 83/25 and 83/25-Add.1, together with the comments of Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Spain and South Africa in ALINORM 83/41 - Part IV and 83/41 - Part IV - Add.1. Also available were the comments of the Rapporteur, Mr. W. Aldershoff (Netherlands) made in response to the above governments' comments. All of the written comments were considered individually by the Working Group. This report summarizes the action proposed by the Working Group on these comments.

4. Section 2.1: the last part of this section was deleted following a discussion of the comment by the Federal Republic of Germany. It was felt that Good Manufacturing Practice would dictate whether or not the product should be blanched.

Section 2.3: the Working Group noted that all of the Codex Standards for Quick Frozen Foods made reference to the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 8-1976), and agreed that this reference did not imply that in accepting the standard that the Code would be accepted also.

Section 2.4.2 (Styles): comments made by Spain and South Africa were not accepted by the Working Group on the basis that this section could not possibly cover all styles explicitly, and that the proposals to amend the dimensions of certain styles would mean a complete re-examination of section which was not feasible at this late stage.

Section 3.2.1 (Quality factors, General requirements): the proposal of South Africa was not accepted. The Working Group noted that sand and grit was already covered by section 3.2.2 Analytical Characteristics, and that the general statement "clean and sound" would cover almost all other eventualities.

Section 3.2.3 (Definition of Visual Defects): the Working Group did not accept a proposal of South Africa to reduce the size of "small pieces", on the advice of the rapporteur.

Section 3.2.5 (Classification and Tolerances for Visual Defects): this section was reworded in order to link the defect tolerance tables to the text and to clarify their use. It was noted that the increased level of allowable defect points given in the table resulted from the use of an increased sample size.

Section 4.1 (Food Additives - Processing Aids): the Working Group noted the comments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland, and the opinion of the Committee on Food Additives expressed in paragraph 74 of ALINORM 81/12. It was agreed that sodium hydroxide was commonly used as a peeling agent and that citric acid was used as a subsequent neutralizing agents and also as a blanching aid. Both substances were later removed by washing, and any residues which might remain were not such that they would be considered as "food additives". Nevertheless, as processing aids it was considered that they should be listed. The advice of the Commission was sought in this matter.

Section 8.3 (Methods of Analysis and Sampling - Cooking Procedure): due to the differing opinions on the length of cooking time needed, it was agreed not to specify a cooking time.

Status of the Standard

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Commission that the Revised Draft standard, which appears as Annex 1 to this report, should be adopted as a Codex Standard at Step 8.

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE HANDLING OF QUICK-FROZEN FOODS DURING TRANSPORT (Step 7)

Documents before the Working Group were: the Draft International Code of Practice, ALINORM 83/37; the comments of Denmark, Poland, South Africa and the International Frozen Food Association (IFFA) in ALINORM 83/41 - Part VIII and Addendum 1; and the comments of Australia, Federal Republic of Germany, and the United Kingdom, in Conference Room document LIM.4. The Working Group also had the comments of the Rapporteur, Prof. Dr. W. Spiess (IIR) in response to the above governments' comments.

7. As a matter of principle the Working Group agreed that specific temperatures for transport would not be given in the Code, as these were already given in the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (CAC/RCP 8-1976). This decision was in accordance with the previous decision of the Joint Group of Experts (ALINORM 81/25, paragraphs 91 and 95). This report summarizes the actions taken by the Working Group.
8. Sections 2.2, 2.5 and 4.1 were deleted by the Working Group. It was agreed that these sections added very little of value to the Code and were either difficult to interpret, or did not reflect current good commercial practice and could therefore be misleading.
9. Section 4.3 was considered in some detail. In regard to the Danish observation that decreasing the temperature of the product before loading could lead to abnormalities in the operation of the refrigerating unit, the Working Group agreed that such instances would be very unusual, and took no action. However, it was agreed that the last part of the section which suggested that the transport equipment might be used to reduce a high product temperature was deleted, as this was not considered to be good practice.
10. In regard to Section 6.1, it was agreed that insulated transport equipment would be used for the transport of quick frozen foods except for a few unusual cases. It was not thought necessary to indicate that Class "C" equipment (as defined by the UN/ATP Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs) should be used, since it was recognized that the Code was also intended for application in countries which were not Contracting Parties to the Agreement.
11. Section 8.3 was amended so that there would be a reference to "accidental damage to essential parts of the transport equipment". A second amendment was made in order to take into account cases of break-down in remote and hot regions.
12. A number of editorial changes were adopted, and all comments which added clarity or precision to the text were adopted.

Status of the Draft Code of Practice

13. It was agreed to propose to the Commission that the Draft International Code of Practice be adopted at Step 8, and published as Annex 2 to the main Code, CAC/RCP 8-1976. The revised Draft Code appears as Annex 2 to this report.

DRAFT STANDARD FOR QUICK FROZEN CARROTS
(Steps 7 and 8 of the Procedure)

1. SCOPE

This standard shall apply to quick frozen carrots of the species Daucus carota L. as defined below and offered for direct consumption without further processing, except for repacking, if required. It does not apply to the product when indicated as intended for further processing or for other industrial purposes.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 Production Definition

Quick frozen carrots are the product prepared from fresh, clean, sound, roots of carrot varieties (cultivars) conforming with the characteristics of the species Daucus carota L. from which the leaves, green tops, peel and secondary roots have been removed and which have been washed and may or may not be blanched.

2.2 Process Definition

Quick frozen carrots are the product subjected to a freezing process in appropriate equipment and complying with the definitions laid down hereafter. This freezing operation shall be carried out in such a way that the range of temperature of maximum crystallization is passed quickly. The quick freezing process shall not be regarded as complete unless and until the product has reached -18°C (0°F) at the thermal centre after thermal stabilization.

The recognized practice of repacking quick frozen products under controlled conditions is permitted.

2.3 Handling Practice

The product shall be handled under such conditions as will maintain the quality during transportation, storage and distribution up to and including the time of final sale. It is recommended that during storage, transportation, distribution and retail, the product will be handled in accordance with the provisions in the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 8-1976).

2.4 Presentation

2.4.1 Types only for the styles Whole:

(a) Long - any suitable variety of conical (e.g. Chantenay) or cylindrical (e.g. Amsterdam) cultivars of carrot.

(b) Round - any suitable variety which has the appearance of spherical cultivar (e.g. Paris Carrot).

2.4.2 Styles

(a) Whole

- (i) Conical and cylindrical cultivars (e.g. Chantenay and Amsterdam types) - consist of carrots which, after processing, retain the approximate conformation of a whole carrot. The shortest diameter at the greatest circumference, measured at right angles to the longitudinal axis shall not exceed 50 mm.
The variation in diameter between the largest and smallest carrot shall not exceed 4:1.
- (ii) Spherical cultivars (e.g. Paris type) - consist of fully mature carrots of a roundish shape of which the largest diameter in any direction shall not exceed 45 mm.

(b) Finger: carrots of the cylindrical type, including sections obtained thereof by transverse cutting, being not less than 30mm long (apart from arising end pieces).

(c) Halved: carrots cut longitudinally into two approximately equal halves.

(d) Quartered: carrots cut longitudinally into four approximately equal sections.

(e) Sliced Length-wise: carrots sliced approximately longitudinally, either smooth or corrugated into four or more units of approximately equal size. Not less than 20 mm long and not less than 5 mm in width measured at the maximum width.

(f) Shoestring or Julienne: carrots cut longitudinally; either smooth or corrugated, into strips. The cross section shall not exceed 5 mm (measured at the longest side of the cross section).

(g) Sliced or Ring cut or Roundels: carrots cut, either smooth or corrugated at right angles to the longitudinal axis into rings, having a minimum thickness of 2 mm, a maximum thickness of 10 mm and a maximum diameter of 50 mm.

(h) Pieces: carrots cut cross-wise into sections having a thickness greater than 10 mm but less than 30 mm or whole carrots which are halved and then cut cross-wise into sections or sections of carrots that may be irregular in shape and size and which are larger than ring cut or double diced.

(i) Diced: carrots cut into cubes with edges not exceeding 12.5 mm.

(j) Double Dice: carrots cut into uniformly shaped units having a cross section that is square and of which the longest dimension is approximately twice that of the shortest dimension - the shortest dimension not exceeding 12.5 mm.

2.4.3

Other styles

Any other presentation of the product shall be permitted provided that it:

- (a) Is sufficiently distinctive from other forms of presentation laid down in this standard.

(b) Meets all other requirements of this standard:

(c) Is adequately described on the label to avoid confusing or misleading the consumer in accordance with section 6.1.3.

2.4.4 Tolerances for Styles

A tolerance of 10 per cent by weight of non-conforming units applies to the whole style and 20 per cent for all other styles.

2.4.5 Sizing

(a) Quick frozen carrots of the styles whole and finger may be presented sized or unsized.

(b) If presented as size-graded the styles in 2.4.5(a), dependent on the cultivar used, shall conform to one of the three following systems of specification for the size names.

(c) The diameter shall be measured at the point of largest transverse cross-section of the unit.

Specification for cylindrical cultivars

<u>Size designation</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Small	6 - 23 mm
Medium	23 - 27 mm
Large	Greater than 27 mm

Specification for conical cultivars

<u>Size designation</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Small	10 - 30 mm
Medium	30 - 36 mm
Large	Greater than 36 mm

Specification for spherical cultivars

<u>Size designation</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Very small	Less than 18 mm
Small	Between 18 and 22 mm
Medium	Between 22 and 27 mm
Large	Between 27 and 35 mm
Extra large	Over 35 mm

2.4.6 Tolerances for size

If presented size graded the product shall contain not less than 80 per cent by mass of carrots of the declared size.

2.4.7 Standard Sample Unit for Presentation and Sizing

See section 3.2.4(2) and 3.2.4(3).

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

3.1 Optional Ingredients

3.1.1 Salt (sodium chloride), sucrose, invert sugar syrup, dextrose, glucose syrup, dried glucose syrup, fructose, and fructose syrup.

3.1.2 Aromatic herbs and spices; stock or juice of vegetables and aromatic herbs; garnishes composed of one or more vegetables (e.g. lettuce, onions; pieces of green or red peppers, or mixtures of both) up to a maximum of 10 per cent m/m of the total drained vegetable ingredient.

3.2 Quality Factors

3.2.1 General Requirements

Quick frozen carrots shall be:

- of a reasonable uniform colour, conforming to the colour characteristics of the variety;
- clean and sound;
- have a normal flavour and odour, free from foreign flavour and odour, taking into consideration added optional ingredients;
- free from objectionable tough parts;

and with respect to visual defects subject to a tolerance shall be:

- not misshapen; (this regards whole and finger carrot style only);
- reasonably free from blemishes;
- reasonably free from mechanical damage (this regards whole and finger carrot style only);
- reasonably free from green tops;
- reasonably free from extraneous vegetable materials (EVM);
- reasonably free from unpeeled areas.

3.2.2 Analytical characteristics

Mineral impurities measured on a whole product basis not more than 0.1 per cent m/m.

3.2.3 Definition of Visual Defects

Defect

Definition

Extraneous Vegetable Material (EVM)

Harmless vegetable material which does not consist of carrot roots.

Misshapen

Units showing branching, twisting, or other forms of distortion which detract seriously from the appearance of the product (Styles: Whole and Finger). Units (other than small pieces) not possessing the configuration of the defined style.

Defect

Major Blemishes	Units with one or more black, dark brown and other intensely discoloured areas due to disease, insect damage, inadequate topping or physiological factors covering an area or aggregate area greater than that of a circle 6 mm in diameter, which detract in a major way from the appearance of the product.
Blemishes	Units with one or more black, dark brown or other intensely discoloured areas due to disease, insect damage, inadequate topping or physiological factors covering an area or aggregate area greater than that of a circle 3 mm in diameter but less than 6 mm in diameter. Other types of discolouration which detract noticeably but not in a major way from the appearance of the product.
Unpeeled	Units showing noticeable unpeeled areas larger than a circle of 6 mm diameter.
Damaged	Units which are crushed or broken.
Cracked	Cracks greater than 2 mm wide or other splits which detract materially from the appearance of the product (Styles: Whole and Finger).
Greening	Units showing green colouration extending down the shoulder or green ring at the top (Whole and Finger Styles). Units showing green colouration (other styles).
Small pieces	- Units less than 25 mm long for the styles "Whole, conical and cylindrical", "finger", "halved", "quartered" and "shoestring or julienne"; - units less than one third the volume of the standard product for the other styles.

3.2.4 Standard Sample Unit

(i) EVM and small pieces	1000 g
(ii) Whole, Finger, Halved, Quartered	100 units
(iii) Diced, Double Dice, Shoestring, Julienne, Sliced or Ring Cut, Sliced Lengthwise, or Pieces Styles	400 g

3.2.5 Classification and Tolerances for Visual Defects

For tolerances based on the standard sample unit indicated in section 3.2.4 visual defects shall be assigned points in accordance with Tables 1 and 2. The maximum number of points shall not exceed the Total Allowable Points rating given under categories A or B, or the Overall Total.

TABLE I

WHOLE, FINGER, HALVED AND QUARTERED STYLES

Defect	Classification	Defect Categories		Overall Total	
		A	B		
Misshapen	} Each Unit	2			
Major Blemishes			2		
Blemishes				1	
Unpeeled Areas				1	
Damaged			2		
Cracked			1		
Greening			1		
Total Allowable Points:		25	30	40	
Small Pieces:		Not to exceed 15 per cent m/m			
EVM:		Not to exceed 2 Pieces or 1 g/1000 g			

TABLE 2

RING CUT, SLICED LENGTHWISE, DICED, DOUBLE DICED, SHOESTRING AND PIECES

Defect	Classification	Defect Categories		Overall Total
		A	B	
Misshapen	} Each 4 grammes of affected material	1		
Major Blemishes			2	
Blemishes			1	
Unpeeled Areas			1	
Greening			1	
Total Allowable Points:	(a) Ring cut, Sliced lengthwise and Pieces	26	8	26
	(b) Diced and double dice	13	4	13
	(c) Shoestring/Julienne	20	4	20
Damaged and Small Pieces:		Not exceeding 25 per cent m/m, Damaged not exceeding 10 per cent m/m.		
EVM:		Not to exceed 2 Pieces or 1 g/1000 g		

3 Definition of Defective for Presentation Quality Factors and Size

Any standard sample unit taken in accordance with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL - 6.5) (Ref. No. CAC/RM 42-1969) and which is adjusted to a standard sample size for applying the tolerances relating to "Visual Defects" shall be regarded as "defective" for the respective characteristics as follows:

- (a) When it fails to meet the general requirements given in section 3.2.1.
- (b) When it fails to comply with the tolerances for style in para. 2.4.4.
- (c) When it exceeds the Total Allowable Points in any one of the defect categories A or B ; or when it exceeds the Total Allowable Points for the Overall Total of the respective defect categories, in Tables 1 & 2.
- (d) When the tolerances for damaged and small pieces are exceeded, or
- (e) When it fails to comply with the size requirements in 2.4.6.

4 Lot Acceptance for Presentation Quality Factors and Size

A lot is considered acceptable with respect to Presentation Quality Factors and Size when the number of "defectives" as defined in section 3.3 does not exceed the acceptance number (c) for the appropriate sample size as specified in the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RC 42-1969). In applying the acceptance procedure each "defective" (sub-sections (a) or (b) or (c) or (d) or (e)) is treated individually for the respective characteristics.

FOOD ADDITIVES

1 Processing Aids

Citric Acid	Limited by GMP
Sodium Hydroxide	Limited by GMP

2 Carry-Over Principle

Section 3 of the "Principles Relating to Carry-Over of Additives into Foods" (Ref. LINORM 76/12, App. IV) shall apply.

HYGIENE

It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared in accordance with the International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 1-1969) recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

LABELLING (Subject to endorsement)

In addition to Sections 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the Recommended International General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RS 1-1969) the following provisions apply:

1 The Name of the Food

1.1 The name of the food as declared on the label shall include the designation "carrots". The words "quick frozen" shall also appear on the label, except that the term "frozen" 1/ may be applied in countries where this term is customarily used for describing the product processed in accordance with the sub-section 2.2 of the standard.

See 1/page 9.

6.1.2 In addition, there shall appear on the label in conjunction with or in close proximity to the word "carrots":

(a) the type Round if the carrots are of this type.

(b) the style as appropriate: "Whole"^{1/}, "Finger"^{1/}, "Halved", "Quartered", "Sliced Lengthwise", "Shoestring" or "Julienne", "Sliced", "Ring Cut", or "Roundel", "Pieces", "Diced", or "Double Dice".

6.1.3 If the product is produced in accordance with sub-section 2.4.3 the label shall contain in close proximity to the word "carrots" such additional words or phrases that will avoid misleading or confusing the consumer.

6.1.4 When any ingredient, other than salt, has been added which imparts to the food the distinctive flavour of the ingredient, the name of the food shall be accompanied by the term "with X" or "X flavoured" as appropriate.

6.1.5 Where a statement of size is made, the words "very small", "small", "medium", "large", and "extra large", as appropriate shall be indicated. Carrots meeting the size requirements for "small" may be designated "baby" within countries where this practice is permitted.

6.2 List of Ingredients

A complete list of ingredients shall be declared, in descending order of proportion. Section 3.2(c) of the "Recommended International General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods" (Ref. No. CAC/RS 1-1969) shall also apply except that food additives present in the product in accordance with Sections 4.1 and 4.2 need not be declared.

6.3 Net Contents

The net contents shall be declared by weight in either the metric system ("Système International" units) or avoirdupois or both systems of measurement as required by the country in which the food is sold.

6.4 Name and address

The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter or vendor of the product shall be declared.

6.5 Country of Origin

The country of origin of the product shall be declared if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer.

6.6 Lot Identification

Each container shall be embossed or otherwise permanently marked in code or in clear, to identify the producing factory and the lot.

6.7 Additional Requirements

The package shall bear clear directions for keeping from the time they are purchased from the retailer to the time of their use as well as directions for cooking.

^{1/} In countries where this is customary these styles may be simply designated as "carrots".

6.8 Bulk Packs ^{1/}

In the case of quick frozen ^{2/} carrots in bulk the information required in 6.1 to 6.6 shall either be placed on the container or to be given in accompanying documents, except that the name of the food accompanied by the words "quick frozen" (the term "frozen" may be used in accordance with sub-section 6.1 of this standard) and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer shall appear on the container.

7. PACKAGING

Packaging used for quick frozen carrots shall:

- (a) Protect the organoleptic and other quality characteristics of the product.
- (b) Protect the product against microbiological and other contamination.
- (c) Protect the product from dehydration, and where appropriate, leakage as far as technologically practicable.
- (d) Not pass on to the product any odour, taste, colour or other foreign characteristics, throughout the processing (where applicable) and distribution of the product up to the time of final sale.

8. METHODS OF EXAMINATION, ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

The methods of examination, analysis and sampling described hereunder are international referee methods which are subject to endorsement by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

8.1 Sampling

8.1.1 Sampling for Presentation, Size and Quality Factors: for these provisions detailed in Sections 2.4, 3.1 and 3.2 of this standard sampling shall be carried out in accordance with the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL-6.5) (Ref. No. CAC/RM 42-1969), as amended.

8.1.2 Sampling for Net Weight: shall be carried out in accordance with the FAO/WHO Sampling Plans for the Determination of Net Weight (under elaboration by the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling).

8.1.3 Sampling for analytical requirements: Sampling Plans to be elaborated.

8.2 Thawing Procedure

According to the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Standard Procedure for Thawing of Quick Frozen Fruits and Vegetables (Ref. No. CAC/RM 32-1970) / endorsed /.

8.3 Cooking Procedure

According to the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Standard Procedure for Cooking of Quick Frozen Fruits and Vegetables (Ref. No. CAC/RM 33-1970). The cooking time for quick frozen carrots may vary depending on variety, maturity, style and sizes.

1/ Pending a final decision on the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers by the Committee on Food Labelling.

2/ "Frozen": this term is used as an alternative to "quick frozen" in some English speaking countries.

8.4 Test Procedure

8.4.1 Net Weight - FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Standard Procedure for Net Weight Determination of Quick Frozen Fruits and Vegetables (Ref. No. CAC/RM 34-1970); also contained in the Recommended International Standard for Quick Frozen Peas (Section 8 Ref. No. CAC/RM 41-1970). / endorsed /.

8.4.2 Mineral Impurities - FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Standard Procedure for Determination of Mineral Impurities in Quick Frozen Fruits and Vegetables (Ref. No. CAC/RM 54-1974). / to be endorsed /.

REVISED DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HANDLING
OF QUICK FROZEN FOODS DURING TRANSPORT
(Steps 7 and 8 of the Procedure)

1. Scope

1.1 This Code is intended to provide guidelines for the loading, transport ^{1/} and unloading of quick frozen foods, other than for retail purposes ^{2/}.

1.2 This Code of Practice is intended to be applied to quick frozen foods of all types which have been subjected to the process of quick freezing as described in section 3 of the Recommended International Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (Ref. No. CAC/RCP 8-1976), and which are offered for sale in the deep frozen state.

1.3 This Code of Practice is based on the knowledge that a product with an acceptable quality, offered by a shipper ^{3/} will have to be delivered by a carrier at the final point of destination to the receiver in an almost unchanged qualitative condition. To achieve the transportation, the carrier provides adequate transport facilities, capable of maintaining the recommended temperature from the point of shipping to the point of receiving.

1.4 The provisions of this Code of Practice should be interpreted as recommendations and are intended as a guide to assist in the handling and transportation of quick frozen foods in order to maintain their quality up to the time of final sale.

1.5 This Code relates to any type of transport of quick frozen foods and therefore also applies to transport of quick frozen foods in containers suitable for the purpose.

1/ Transportation in the sense of this Code means the conveyance of quick frozen foods from one warehouse cold-store to another. The transportation process starts with removal of the products from the initial cold store and ends with storage of the products at the destination cold store.

Transport by land of frozen foodstuffs to countries having ratified the UN/ATP agreement must be carried out in equipment approved according to said agreement and under the conditions laid down in the agreement.

2/ Detailed technical information may be found in the following publications of the International Institute of Refrigeration: (i) Recommendations for the Processing and Handling of Frozen Foods; (ii) Recommended Conditions for Land Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs.

3/ In this document the shipper, carrier and receiver are considered as identical to the responsible person who offers, respectively transports and receives the load or the person who works under his responsibility.

2. Product Quality

2.1 Quick frozen foods, when offered for transportation, have a quality which is determined by the quality of the raw material and by the processing before freezing, the quickfreezing process itself, by the packaging and the packaging material and the storage temperature-time history and handling up to that time.

2.2 No material change in quality will result from the loading, transportation and unloading operations provided that the recommended temperature provisions have been maintained. However, because quality is dependent on many factors other than temperature (see 2.1) maintaining the temperature according to this code provides no guarantee that the quality of a product will be at the acceptable quality level (A.Q.L.) at the end of a transportation journey.

2.3 In cases where the temperature of a product at the time of arrival is warmer than that recommended, the product should not be refused but placed in such conditions so as to reduce the temperature to the desired level as quickly as possible. Such product will not necessarily be of bad quality although its product life may have been reduced. Further handling of affected product should be determined in consultation with the appropriate control authority.

3. Loading, Unloading and Transportation

3.1 Any handling of frozen foods at air temperatures warmer than the product temperature will result in an increase of the product temperature and may also result in condensation of water on the product. Handling at such air temperatures should, therefore, be minimized or avoided if possible. Under all circumstances, handling of quick frozen foods during loading and unloading of the transport equipment should be done as fast as practicable. Fans in the transport equipment must be stopped during the loading process.

3.2 The use of standardized load units is strongly recommended as well as the use of mechanical loading and unloading equipment, to minimize the time-temperature-surface exposure of cargo to uncontrolled environmental conditions.

3.3 The quick frozen food should not reside longer than is necessary in an environment with warmer temperatures.

3.4 The selection and grouping of quick frozen foods for various destinations should be done in advance and before leaving the cold store. The order of loading should be well prepared in advance in cases where the transport equipment will not be completely unloaded at one destination.

3.5 Quick frozen foods shall be loaded within transport equipment so as to provide for free circulation of refrigerated air at the front, rear, top, bottom and both sides of the load, except for transport equipment of envelope construction wherein refrigerated air or refrigerant circulates within the walls of such equipment.

4. Product Temperature

4.1 Transport equipment is generally designed to keep the temperature in a load as it is offered and not to remove any heat gained by the food during loading, because the refrigeration capacity provided is in most cases not sufficient to lower the core temperature of the cargo in a reasonable time. A superficial temperature rise, however, can be redressed within a reasonable time, provided that external heat load is not excessive, refrigeration power and air circulation is not restricted and refrigerated air is properly distributed.

4.2 It is recommended that, prior to loading, product temperatures should be decreased by a suitable amount below the recommended carriage temperature so that, on completion of loading the recommended temperature is not exceeded in any part of the cargo.

4.3 Shipper and carrier should agree upon the stabilized product temperature at the time of preparing the load in the warehouse cold-store for delivery to the transport equipment and on the time and procedure of loading, taking into account the temperature recommended for the product and the time needed for the loading process, the ambient air temperature during the loading process, the characteristics of the refrigerated transport equipment and the time needed for transportation.

4.4 Carrier and receiver should agree upon the product temperature at the time of receiving the load at entry to the warehouse cold-store and on the time and procedure of unloading, taking into account the temperature recommended for the product and the ambient air temperature during the unloading process and the time needed for unloading.

4.5 On arrival at the final destination, the warehouse cold-store should keep the product at the recommended temperature.

4.6 Temperature measurement at the time of loading and unloading should preferably be made in packages situated in approximately the same relative position in the cargo, taking into consideration the recommendations laid down in para 8.3 of Addendum I to CAC/RCP 8-1976, and para. 5.2 of this Code.

4.7 Temperatures measured should be written in a transport document accompanying the load for the benefit of the receiver, with a copy to all parties concerned which may also include insurance organizations.

5. Measuring Product Temperature

5.1 Temperature should be checked in the product according to the recommendations as presented in Addendum I to the Code of Practice for the Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (CAC/RCP 8-1976).

5.2 If agreed by the parties concerned, package surface temperature may be measured instead of product temperature, but in case of dispute only the product temperature should be valid.

5.3 Checking temperature in the situations as mentioned in 4.7., should always be done by shipper and carrier or carrier and receiver, at the same time, on the same samples and in the environmental conditions of the warehouse cold-store where the product will be stored or was stored (ref.No. CAC/RCP 8-1976 para 5.4).

5.4 Checking product temperatures should not delay the loading or unloading process. In case of dispute the measuring procedure should follow the directions presented in para 5.3 above, meanwhile keeping the transport equipment closed.

6. Transport Equipment

6.1 Transport equipment should be compatible with the requirements of the quick frozen food to be transported, taking into account the conditions during loading and unloading and the ambient air temperature during transportation and the duration of the journey. The transport equipment should be insulated and should be equipped in such a way that the recommended temperature can be maintained during the time of transportation.

6.2 The transport equipment should be free from foreign smell or odour and in good hygienic condition.

6.3 The transport equipment should be precooled before loading as far as appropriate with regard to the time and energy consumption as well as temperature and humidity at the loading area. Before loading a defrost cycle should be observed. Any frost accumulated inside the vehicle should be removed prior to precooling.

6.4 In the event of a refrigeration system being supplied that may have repercussions on the health of people entering the refrigerated space, warning notices and safety procedures or devices must be provided to protect the workers; where such equipment is used the manufacturers' instructions are to be strictly adhered to.

6.5 During transportation a limited rise of 3°C (see para. 5.2, CAC/RCP 8-1976) in the temperature from that specified for the load may be tolerated, but the temperature should be reduced as soon as possible, either during transport or immediately after delivery, to the recommended temperature (see also para 2.4).

6.6 It is recommended that the transport vehicle be equipped with an appropriate temperature measurement device to record air temperature inside the vehicle. The dial or reading element of the device should be mounted in a readily visible position outside the vehicle.

6.7 The carrier should keep records of:

- (where the refrigeration during transportation is carried out by mechanical equipment) the temperature in the return air flow
- (where a thermograph is fitted) the air temperature inside the equipment as indicated by the dial mounted on the equipment body
- (where the refrigeration during transportation is carried out by a mechanical equipment) the running time of the refrigeration unit
- the length of time for which the doors are left open during loading and unloading of the goods.

6.8 Transport of quick frozen foods should be carried out within the shortest practicable time.

7. Facilities at loading and unloading place

7.1 The warehouse cold-store should provide for adequate connections, e.g. port doors, dock shelters, etc. to the refrigerated transport equipment, so that this equipment and the cargo transferred are subject to a minimum of heat load, and that thereby any increase in product temperature is restricted as much as possible.

7.2 When no port door or dockshelter is provided for during loading or unloading the use of plastic strip door curtains or similar protection is recommended to prevent inlet of warmer and humidified air (ambient air).

7.3 Shipper, carrier, receiver and Inspection Services should contribute to accelerate the loading and unloading procedure so as to avoid any unnecessary delay.

7.4 Door(s) of the transport equipment should always be closed when the loading or unloading is interrupted for any reason.

8. Inspection

8.1 . Inspection of the temperature of the product, other than by reading the recording instruments outside the vehicle, as provided for in CAC/RCP 8-1976 (para 5.4), between the time of loading and unloading by opening the transport equipment is strongly dissuaded and should be done as recommended in 5.3 above.

8.2 It is strongly recommended that inspection by governmental authorities for other purposes be organized at the point of loading and unloading and should be carried out under environmentally controlled conditions.

8.3 In case of accidental damage to essential parts of the transport equipment during transport it is important to arrange a damage survey of the load and the transport equipment as quickly as possible, preferably before unloading the vehicle. If it is not possible to arrange a damage survey within very few hours, depending on the ambient temperature, the load should be unloaded and placed under suitable conditions. During unloading temperature measurements should be carried out according to para 4.7 above.

Statement made by the delegation of the People's Republic of China
at the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation is very happy to be here to attend the Fifteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO and WHO for inviting us to this meeting. We would also like to thank Dr. Eckert, the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Mr. Kermode, the Chief of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, for their special welcome and friendly words to the Chinese Delegation in their opening speeches.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our warm greetings and best wishes to all of you.

As you know, this is the first time that the People's Republic of China has attended a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the capacity of observer. The main purposes of our attendance are as follows: to know more about the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its activities, to get acquainted with the responsible officials and members, scientists and experts in this field and we would also like to learn the good experiences from other countries.

During the period of our meetings, we have met with many delegations, officials and experts, they have given us very friendly explanations about and introduction to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and relative questions. Now, please allow me once again to express our sincere thanks to them for their kindness and explanation.

As you know, China is one of the countries with an ancient civilization. The food industry in China has a long history. Chinese foods and cooking techniques have a unique tradition. In recent years, our government has adopted a series of correct policy and measures, including the policy of economic readjustment and the diverse forms of the responsibility system for production. For these reasons, the food industry in China has made remarkable progress in recent years. The food industry output is increasing at an average rate of about ten percent per year. But this development still does not meet the needs of our socialist construction and the growing demand of the people's life improvement. Therefore, the food industry in China must make further progress and considerable improvements in technology, equipment, quality control, production and operation.

As an old Chinese saying goes: "Feeding the people is a matter of prime importance under heaven". The sanitation quality of foods is very important to the people's health and the nation's thriving. For this reason, our government has paid great attention to the work of food sanitation. We have adopted the supervisory system for food sanitation. Our government has formulated and promulgated a number of food hygiene regulations and various kinds of food standards. Last November, our country adopted a provisional food hygiene law. This is the first food hygiene law in the People's Republic of China and has been put into force from first July this year or just two weeks ago. This law will give a legal basis for the food sanitation/quality in our country and will also give a big impetus to food quality/standardization in China.

Mr. Chairman, through attending this meeting, we have a better understanding about the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We would like to express our appreciation for the active efforts of FAO and WHO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the purpose of protecting the health of the consumers and facilitating the world food trade.

Although this is the first time for us to attend this meeting as an observer, we do hope it will become a good beginning and that it will give us more opportunities to make joint efforts with other countries to promote the food standards and regulations work at international and national levels.

Finally, we would like to express once again our best wishes to all of you and for the successful conclusion of our session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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