EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES
17th MEETING

ITEM 7 - COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY (SP-HM) (ACT. 15.7.A1)

(CDSP (85) 6, CDSP (85) Misc 3, CDSP (85) Misc 4)

The Secretariat introduced the Extract from the Report of the 8th Meeting of the Committee of Experts on Blood Transfusion and Immunohaematology (SP-HM) held in Manchester from 28 to 31 May (CDSP (85) 6). On behalf of the SP-HM she thanked the United Kingdom Representatives for agreeing to host the meeting and congratulated the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre on the excellent arrangements; the Committee had also been most impressed by the new facilities at the Centre.

The Extract raised three urgent matters for consideration by the CDSP:

- arrangements for a symposium on quality assurance in blood transfusion;
- amendments proposed to the draft recommendation on quality control (doc CDSP (84) 21 Add. I);
- a draft recommendation relating to screening of blood donors for AIDS markers.

The Extract also included interim activity reports for the SP-HM, the SP-R-GS (automation and quality control) and the SP-R-HS (histocompatibility) requesting extension of terms of reference until 1986, i.e. the end of the 2nd Medium-Term Plan.

CDSP (85) Misc 3 contained a legal opinion on the competence of the European Pharmacopoeia and the CDSP, and their subsidiary bodies, for drawing up standards applicable to blood and blood products, which had been circulated to the Committee for information. The revision of the Protocol to European Agreement No. 26 would be considered by the CDSP at its November meeting.

The CDSP approved the arrangements which were being made for the Symposium. The WHO representative offered financial support to help 2 participants from countries whose funds for such events were most limited for currency reasons. The CDSP expressed its gratitude to WHO for this contribution, as well as to the LRCS and ISBT who were also going to help support financially either participants or lecturers.

Various delegations suggested that more time was needed to confirm that the revised version of the quality control guidelines was acceptable to the interested parties in their own countries. Considering the high interest this text raised in Transfusion circles in Europe, it was agreed to submit this draft Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers for adoption, unless opposition was formulated by any delegation before 1st September 1985.

Substantial alterations were rejected

Several drafting changes to the draft Recommendation on the screening of blood donors for AIDS markers were proposed, including one suggested by the Danish delegation which was intended to avoid any impression that the Recommendation was obliging member countries to implement screening programmes. The French Representative also presented some amendments and additions. Comments by the Legal Directorate were also taken into account. A revised text was provisionally agreed (see Appendix III), subject to further consideration by the appropriate authorities in member countries. Should no delegation formulate any opposition by 1st September 1985, the draft Recommendation would be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

The CDSP also approved the interim activity reports of the SP-HM and its two select committees and endorsed their requests for an extension of terms of reference, which would be submitted to the Committee of Ministers.