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Final Resolution of FIAMC

XV Congress

Rome, Italy — October, 1982

Meeting in Rome for the 15th World Congress of the International Federation of Catholic Doctors, the 5,000 members from 71 nations and five continents studied and discussed the multiple aspects of the evolution of modern medical research and the serious problems it poses for the future of both medicine and humanity. Having ascertained the ever-growing influence of medicine on the life of man — his birth, development and end — and on his social situation as well as his right to health care, the FIAMC membership agreed on the following actions:

1) It urges all doctors to be aware that respect and unconditional service to life are essential principles upon which the doctors' behavior must be based independently of national, philosophical, religious and political situations, even though it knows that in many countries those principles are completely ignored, and doctors are not allowed freedom of conscience to carry out their duty to serve life and, at times, are even asked to extinguish life.

2) Ready to cooperate with other groups and associations sharing those essential actions, the FIAMC appeals to the Holy See to form a central organization which would coordinate the activity of Catholic groups concerned with health care.

3) The organization expresses its filial loyalty to the Supreme Pontiff who, addressing delegates in the Congress Hall on Oct. 3, 1982, asked that physicians give witness to their faith; be healers of the whole man; cooperate in improving man's social and economic status and in eradicating hunger and disease; demonstrate their faith in eternal life; remember that their profession is a vocation in service of man who is the image of God; and employ technological advances for the improvement, not the destruction of life.

4) FIAMC appeals for an encyclical or a pontifical document dealing with suffering in its theological, human, social and supernatural values.

5) The international organization confirms its resolution to be in the service of living man.



Federation Internationale des Associations Medicales Catholiques (FIAMC)

Executive Committee Meeting, 1982

Minutes of the executive committee meeting of FIAMC held in the Columbus Hotel in Rome on Monday, Oct. 4, 1982.

The meeting commenced at 19.00. The following members were present:

- Dr. Chicot J. Vas, president of FIAMC (chairman)
- Dr. T. P. Linehan
- Dr. Joan Lamplugh
- Dr. M. Newman
- Dr. Carlos A. Carranza Casares
- Dr. Charles Bauda
- Dr. Gino Papola
- Dr. Bryan Curtin
- Dr. R. G. Arellano (attending part of the meeting only)

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr. J. Massons.

The chairman opened the meeting by reporting that Dr. Gino Papola had been appointed by the General Assembly as an honorary president of the Federation, and by expressing his personal thanks to the members of the past committee for their work and support. He reported also that the Council for the Propagation of the Faith had donated a sum of 38,000 U.S. dollars to the Bio-Medical Ethics Centre in Bombay to provide an endowment fund which will yield an annual sum in interest to be used for the running of the FBMEC.

Regional elections were reported as follows:

- Europe . . . Prof. J. Lereboullet (France), vice-president
A member still to be nominated from Germany
- Asia Dr. R. G. Arellano (Phillipines), vice-president
Dr. Y. W. Bahk (Korea)
- Oceania . . . Dr. Bryan Curtin (Australia), vice-president
Dr. Jack Bergin (New Zealand)
- Africa Dr. J. St. G. Warmann (Ghana), vice-president
A second member; the secretary-general to be notified
of the decision later
- N. America . Dr. Charles Bauda (U.S.A.), vice-president
Dr. Michael Newman (Canada)
- S. America . Dr. Carlos Carranza Casares (Argentina), vice-president
One vacancy

Dr. J. Massons was elected as assistant secretary-general.

Dr. John Mullooly was elected as assistant treasurer.

I.

The chairman, Dr. C. J. Vas, reported on a number of meetings which had been held with a representative of the Holy See during the week in which the Congress was being held in Rome. The Holy See wished the Federation to extend its activities and to make its work better known throughout the world. To assist in this aim in a practical way the Holy See had subsidized the expenses of a number of delegates to the Congress who would otherwise have been unable to attend. The Holy See had also put forward a suggestion that a full-time office might be set up, with possibly a retired doctor involved, who could assist the office bearers of FIAMC in their travel obligations by visiting various countries to stimulate interest in FIAMC and to encourage the setting up of active Catholic medical groups in countries throughout the world. Emphasis was placed on the need for a *full-time* office, which could also maintain contacts with paramedical and other Catholic organizations. The representative of the Holy See had suggested that if a senior doctor were not available we should consider a doctor-priest or part-time hospital chaplain, etc.

Dr. Vas had been requested by the Holy See to furnish a report to the Holy See within one week of the Congress, giving the immediate reaction of the executive committee to this proposal.

Resolved: that the executive committee was agreeable to this proposal and that the Holy See will be given a detailed discussion document in nine months' time, following a meeting of the officers of the executive committee on a date to be arranged. A progress report would be given every three months. As an interim measure, Fr. J. Menezes, S.J., of the Federation's Bio-Medical Ethics Centre, would kindly arrange to set up a small office temporarily in the premises of the Centre in Bombay as evidence to the Holy See that its suggestion was being acted upon. The exact siting of a permanent office, its staffing and cost, would be left for further consideration by the officers of the executive committee and a final decision on these matters made at a later date, possibly at the next executive committee meeting. It was hoped that the trustees would agree to this request for the use of certain facilities as an interim measure. The secretariat would not be liable for any expenditures in regard to personnel, rent, or other expenses except postage, photocopying, etc

II.

Discussion took place on possible themes for the Congress in 1986. A suggestion was made that the format of the next Congress might be different from that of previous Congresses. It was suggested that a number of subjects should be put forward for discussion by each of the national organizations in their own countries at some time before

the next World Congress; and that at the next World Congress members would meet in discussion groups to follow up the deliberations of these national meetings rather than listening to the readings of papers only, as on past occasions.

Resolved: that members of the executive committee should write within the next three months to the secretary-general, suggesting possible themes for the next World Congress in 1986.

Resolved: that Dr. Carlos Carranza Casares should write to the secretary-general in nine months' time, giving outline proposals for the next World Congress in Argentina.

III.

Discussion took place on the date for and place of the next executive committee meeting.

Resolved: that this would be held in September, 1983. Because it would not be possible for New Zealand to be the host country, it would be arranged instead for the meeting to be held in Mexico City as the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds of America would be meeting there at the same time in an endeavor to start a Catholic doctors' organization in Latin America.

IV.

Discussion took place on the amendments to the statutes.

Resolved: that Dr. Charles Bauda would continue his work on the proposed amendments.

V.

It was noted that following the change in presidency of FIAMC, the Holy See had requested the executive committee to submit the names of three possible candidates for appointment to the office of ecclesiastical advisor to FIAMC. It was usually the practice for the ecclesiastical advisor to be a resident of the same region as the president, but this was not mandatory.

Further discussion then took place on a number of miscellaneous items.

Noted: that Dr. Warmann would pursue his efforts to encourage the formation of Catholic medical guilds in Africa and the formation of an African Federation.

Noted: that Dr. Joan Lamplugh was arranging for a meeting of Catholic medical associations in Africa to be held in Ghana in 1984.

Finally, Dr. Carlos Carranza Casares requested from the executive committee a formal letter which could be presented to his government, stating the wish of the Federation to hold its XVI Congress in Argentina; and this was agreed.

The meeting closed at 20.35, with a prayer offered by the honorary president, Dr. Gino Papola.

— T. P. Linehan
Secretary-General