

that they are unable to produce drugs, are not in a position to afford the elaborate laboratories necessary to test drugs.

Dr. Aujoulat of France stated "one of the most important difficulties facing the Organization in its aim to control the quality of pharmaceutical products was that of the creation of laboratories at the level of each country—it would be difficult for many countries. . . . He believed that countries with populations of less than two million should give up the idea, for the present, of having their own laboratories or industries".

Dr. Alan of Turkey stated that "the subject of quality control of pharmaceutical preparations had appeared on the agenda of the Health Assembly for many years and was likely to do so for many more. As the situation stood at the present, only some producing countries and the minority of importing countries were in a position to effect quality control. Accordingly, *the majority of the world population was being treated with pharmaceutical preparations which had not been fully controlled*".

Dr. Commissiong (of Trinidad and Tobago) pointed out that "the Director-General's report was evidence that something was being done in a very vexed area." He thanked the delegate of Norway for his contribution and had some points to add, namely, "*The cost of adequate control procedures and laboratories was the same for small countries and large countries, and was outside the scope of small countries.* His country depended on aid from outside for supplies of drugs. Standards in his country were based on whether the product was suitable for use in the exporting country".

"To hear of the 'double standard' used by some manufacturers was very distressing. The establishment of regional laboratories would assist greatly. Countries producing drugs should be responsible for the standards of drugs they exported. *It was a moral obligation not to capitalize on the deficiencies of others*".

Dr. Commissiong is right, the drug exporting nations have a moral obligation not to capitalize on the weakness of other countries. Each nation should assume responsibility for the standard of the drugs they export.

Our present laws require that all *new* drugs which are exported meet the same standards as those which we consume in our country. I am ashamed that the United States belongs to the group of nations which may on occasion export out-of-date preparations. No law exists to require antibiotic preparations so urgently needed in so many countries to meet the standards required in our country. The consequence is that manufacturers are permitted to ship out-of-date antibiotics and, I believe, with no expiration date on the bottle. Many pharmaceutical manufacturers will maintain that these preparations are potent for a far longer time than the date of expiration. Be that as it may, shipments to the other side of the world take time and more time is required to dispense the drug. Moreover, the fact remains that the United States Government permits antibiotics to be sold or distributed to other countries which they would not permit to be sold in our country. This, in my opinion, is a disgrace. Antibiotics which have lost their potency are almost worse than useless.

I do not know the law regarding the export of steel but if the United States Government or a manufacturer in the United States sold steel of inferior quality and the building collapsed, I am sure the repercussion would be both tremendous and terrible. Unfortunately, when we permit the sale of antibiotics which are no longer potent and people die in a far off country where disease is rife and the mortality rate already high, nothing is heard therefrom. Nevertheless, that such a thing is possible is a disgrace to this nation. Not only is it morally wrong not to insure that drugs exported are of the same quality that is required for home consumption, but our relations with other nations demand that disasters and deaths from the use of impotent or out-dated preparations are not to be permitted to occur, far less are tolerated. Furthermore, if the richest country of the world does not care whether it exports pharmaceutical products of sub-standard quality how can we expect other countries not to do the same. This is not a matter for the World Health Organization to try to control. Each country should assume that responsibility. We have a moral obligation to do so.

As Dr. Alan from Turkey said "only some producing countries and the minority of importing countries were in a position to effect quality control. Accordingly the majority of the world population were being treated with pharmaceutical preparations which has not been fully controlled".

Dr. Noygorodcfv (U.S.S.R.) stressed the importance of control of pharmaceutical preparations in view of the defencelessness of the population, especially in developing countries, against the flood of preparations, many of them of inferior