

When these Councils are organized it is planned to supplant the Research Committee of the I.S.C. with a new organization that might be called the Scientific Board of the I.S.C. which would have roughly the following structure: One representative from each Council, several members-at-large, and several ex officio members (e.g., President, Past President, and Executive Secretary of the I.S.C.). It is hoped that this Board of about 12 members would meet annually to review the activities of the Councils and to carry on the work previously done by the Research Committee. The Past President of the I.S.C. might be Chairman of this Board.

A permanent Secretariat of the I.S.C. is being set up at Geneva and that office could serve the Councils. It should be noted that the I.S.C. has an official connection with W.H.O. so that the Councils, through the parent I.S.C., would have direct access to W.H.O. and its Director-General.

D. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL ON EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION

Broadly, the function of this Council should be, on an international scale, to promote activity and communication in the fields of epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases. Specifically this may include:

- 1) Organization of scientific meetings in conjunction with (before or after) the World and Regional Congresses of the I.S.C. and also, if desired, at other times.
- 2) Contribute to the organization of the programs of the Congresses.
- 3) Provide advice to the I.S.C., and through it to W.H.O., in regard to advances and needs in epidemiology and prevention.
- 4) Encourage training and exchange of workers in this field.
- 5) Provide to its members news about meetings, congresses, research and training opportunities, and significant new programs and developments in this field. This function might be met by a bulletin to be sent to all members several times a year. (The cost of such a bulletin would be met by very modest dues plus such subventions as could be obtained from other sources.)

E. COMMENTS

We are all weary of too many societies, journals, etc., and no one wants an unnecessary or merely paper organization. But there seems to be a real desire and need for an international council on epidemiology and prevention. And a place for this is appropriately within the I.S.C., something like the Councils of the American Heart Association.

In some respects the AHA organization can serve as a model but differences should be noted. The AHA has a substantial budget as well as dues and a full-time secretariat serving each Council; the I.S.C. has little money and no dues from individuals. The AHA, and its Councils, meet annually, the I.S.C. Congresses are only every four years; these differences in periodicity of meetings are reflected in the terms of offices - one year for AHA, four years for I.S.C.