

No. 110

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FRANCE, POLAND,
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND, CHINA, etc.**

**International Sanitary Convention, 1944, modifying the
International Sanitary Convention of 21 June 1926.
Opened for signature at Washington, on 15 December
1944**

*English and French official texts communicated by the Acting Representative
of the United States of America at the seat of the United Nations. The
filing and recording took place on 26 July 1948.*

**ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE, FRANCE, POLOGNE,
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET
D'IRLANDE DU NORD, CHINE, etc.**

**Convention sanitaire internationale, 1944, portant modifica-
tion de la Convention sanitaire internationale du 21 juin
1926. Ouverte à la signature à Washington, le 15 décem-
bre 1944**

*Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le représentant par intérim
des Etats-Unis d'Amérique au siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.
Le classement et l'inscription au répertoire ont eu lieu le 26 juillet 1948.*

No. 110. INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CONVENTION,¹ 1944,
MODIFYING THE INTERNATIONAL SANITARY CON-
VENTION OF 21 JUNE 1926,² OPENED FOR SIGNATURE
AT WASHINGTON, ON 15 DECEMBER 1944³

The Governments signatory hereto,

Considering that the International Office of Public Health created by the Agreement signed at Rome on December 9, 1907⁴, is unable for the time being to carry out effectively all of the duties and functions assigned to it in the Annex to that Agreement; in the International Sanitary Convention, 1926²; in the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation, 1933⁵; and in other Conventions or Agreements relating to the public health;

Having entrusted the task of solving this temporary problem by the preparation of emergency agreements and arrangements for the notification of epidemic diseases and for uniformity in quarantine regulations to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (hereinafter referred to as *UNRRA*), in accordance with Resolution No. 8 (2) adopted by the Council of *UNRRA* at its First Session, without prejudice however to the status of the International Office of Public Health which it is hoped will be able at the expiry of the present Convention to resume the above-mentioned duties and functions; and having received the recommendations of *UNRRA* in this connection;

Having agreed that, in regard to the American Republics, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall continue to act as the general coordinating sanitary agency, including the general collection and distribution of sanitary information to and

¹ Came into force on 15 January 1945 by the signature thereof on behalf of ten Governments, in accordance with article XXI. For the list of Parties, see page 346 of this volume.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume LXXVIII, page 229; Volume XCII, page 409; Volume CIV, page 513; Volume CVII, page 524; Volume CLXXII, page 411, and Volume CXCVIII, page 205.

³ See Protocol to prolong the International Sanitary Convention, 1944, modifying the International Sanitary Convention of 21 June 1926, opened for signature at Washington, on 23 April 1946, — page 3 of this volume.

⁴ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Volume 100, page 466. See also: Protocol concerning the *Office international d'hygiène publique*, signed at New York, on 22 July 1946. — United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume 6, page 66; Volume 10, page 376; Volume 11, page 421; Volume 12, page 417; Volume 13, page 474; Volume 14, page 491; Volume 15, page 445, and page 361 of this volume.

⁵ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CLXI, page 65; Volume CLXXXI, page 430; Volume CLXXXV, page 430; Volume CXCVI, page 426 and Volume CXCVII, page 351.

from the said Republics, as specified in the Pan American Sanitary Code and recognized heretofore by the International Office of Public Health;

Desiring also to modify as between themselves the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention signed in Paris on June 21, 1926, as modified by the Sanitary Convention signed in Paris in 1938¹, insofar as the provisions of the Convention of 1938 may be in force between the respective Governments (hereinafter referred to as *the 1926 Convention*), in the light of the present-day conditions which call for special measures to prevent the spread by land and sea across frontiers of epidemic or other communicable diseases;

Have decided to conclude a Convention for these purposes, have agreed that, whereas the authentic text of the 1926 Convention is in the French language, the present Convention shall be in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, and have accordingly appointed the undersigned plenipotentiaries who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed that the 1926 Convention shall be amended as follows:

Article I

All references in the 1926 Convention to the International Office of Public Health shall be read as references to UNRRA.

Article II

The second paragraph of Preliminary Provisions (2) shall be deleted and the following substituted:

The word *surveillance* means that persons are not isolated, that they may move about freely, but that the sanitary authorities of the place or places to which they are proceeding are notified of their coming. They may be subjected in the places of arrival to a medical examination and such inquiries as are necessary with a view to ascertaining their state of health; and, in any territory where the competent Contracting Party thinks fit, surveillance may include requirement to report on arrival and afterwards, at such intervals during continuance of surveillance as may be specified, to the Health Officer of the city, town, district, or place to which they proceed.

¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CXCVIII, page 205.

Article III

The following definitions shall be added to the *Preliminary Provisions*:

(5) The term *typhus*, *typhus fever*, or *exanthematous typhus* in the 1926 Convention and in the present Convention shall be deemed to relate only to epidemic louse-borne typhus.

(6) The term *Stegomyia*, *Stegomyia (Aedes aegypti)*, or *Stegomyia calopus (Aedes aegypti)* shall be deemed to include *Aedes aegypti* and any potential mosquito vectors of yellow fever.

Article IV

To Article 1 the following shall be added:

Every Contracting Party shall, in addition to the diseases specifically mentioned in this Article, to wit, plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus, and smallpox, notify to UNRRA outbreaks of such other communicable diseases as, in the opinion of that Party or in the opinion of UNRRA, constitute a menace to other countries by their spread or potential spread across frontiers, and shall keep UNRRA regularly informed of the course of the disease and the measures taken to prevent its spread. The provisions of the 1926 Convention as amended or supplemented by the present Convention shall, unless clearly inapplicable, apply to the above-mentioned other communicable diseases.

Article V

In Article 3 the word "Paris" in the second paragraph shall be deleted and the words "London or Washington" shall be substituted.

To Article 3 the following shall be added:

In order to facilitate the prompt and scrupulous fulfilment of the foregoing provisions, the Contracting Parties shall ensure priority for all communications which may enable UNRRA rapidly to appraise the situation concerning the outbreak of a disease and to inform governments in order that they may take appropriate measures against the spread of the disease across their frontiers.

Article VI

After Article 5 the following shall be inserted:

Article 5A. In addition to carrying out the system of notification and intelligence prescribed in Part I, Chapter I of the 1926 Convention, which remains in full force, the Parties to the present Convention shall transmit

promptly to UNRRA the notifications and other information prescribed in Part I of the 1926 Convention.

Article 5B (1). In addition to the formal notification required above, the Contracting Parties shall, so far as possible, send to the Health Organization of UNRRA at regular intervals notifications of communicable diseases notified in their countries.

(2). The Contracting Parties shall make the necessary arrangements with UNRRA for giving prompt information to all the governments concerned of the outbreak in their respective countries of a disease which, in the opinion of UNRRA, constitutes a menace to other countries and of the measures which are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease across frontiers.

Article VII

To Article 13 the following shall be added:

In a country where there exists a communicable disease, the subject of a formal notification under any international sanitary or quarantine convention for the time being in force, the Sanitary Authority in that country may prohibit the embarkation on board a ship on international voyage of persons suffering from the disease, and of persons in such relations to the sick as to render them liable to transmit the disease, unless the Medical Officer of the port of embarkation is satisfied that measures can be taken on board the ship to prevent the spread of the disease to the other persons on board. The Medical Officer of the port of embarkation, or other authorized officer of the sanitary authority, if he has reason to suspect any clothing, bedding, or other article of personal use which belongs to or is intended for use by persons embarking to be infected, may examine and require the disinfection of any such clothing, bedding, or other article of personal use before it is taken on board.

The measures enumerated in this Article shall be taken as far in advance of the sailing date of the ship as possible in order not unduly to delay the ship's departure.

Nothing in this Article shall affect the power of the Master of the ship to refuse to embark sick persons.

Article VIII

In Article 15 the following shall be inserted between the third and fourth paragraphs:

If on the call or arrival of any ship at a port there is on board a case of infectious disease duly verified by the port medical officer, not being a case of