



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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Topic 12: PRODUCTION OF BIOLOGICALS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

At the request of the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare of El Salvador, the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau included on the agenda of the 22nd Meeting of the Executive Committee the topic entitled "Instituto Centro Americano de Productos Biológicos" (Central American Institute of Biological Products). In the document presented, it was pointed out that this important topic, which is a matter of special interest to several Member Governments, should be given careful consideration, and that the necessary consultations should be held with the governments concerned.

The Executive Committee, after considering the question, took the following decision (Resolution IX):

"1. To take note of the proposal submitted by the Government of El Salvador relative to the organization of a Central American Institute of Biological Products.

2. To recommend that the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau carry out the necessary studies on the advantages of this project to the countries concerned and the possibility of its implementation, and transmit these reports as soon as possible to the Executive Committee."

In compliance with this resolution, the Director addressed letters to the Ministers of Health of the six countries concerned, asking their opinion and point of view regarding the establishment of the proposed Institute.

The Governments of Costa Rica and Honduras agreed in principle with the proposal, stressing the importance of a reliable source of vaccines and stating their willingness to begin conversations with the interested countries as soon as possible. The Minister of Health of Guatemala, in answering a further inquiry, stated that his Government also is willing to cooperate in the organization of the Institute.

Further efforts have been made to obtain the answers of the other two governments concerned.

At the same time, information was requested from each of the governments of the area on production, consumption, and estimated needs in the case of the more common vaccines, data that are essential in the planning of an Institute of this kind. Such information has been received so far from Costa Rica and El Salvador. The studies undertaken to date indicate that the establishment of a Central American Institute of Biological Products might be in the interest of the countries of the area. Obviously, the agreement of the countries concerned is a basic requisite for further progress in the planning of this Institute.

The Director will continue his efforts to obtain the necessary information and submit it in due course to the Executive Committee.