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I. Introduction

The Pan American Zoonoses Center was established in 1956 at Azul, Buenos Aires, Argentina, to promote the study, control, and eradication from the Americas of those diseases naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and man. Although over 80 zoonoses have been identified, it is anticipated that the Center will devote its major efforts to the more important ones, from the health and economic viewpoints, such as rabies, brucellosis, hydatidosis, tuberculosis, encephalitis, salmonellosis, psittacosis, and anthrax.

The Center, administered by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is an international institution through which countries may cooperate in laboratory and field research, in training, and in joint control and eradication programs.

II. Background

In 1953, the Organization of American States proposed to finance with Technical Assistance funds a zoonoses training center to be established by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The PASB consulted with the American states and received a declaration of interest in the project from each of the following countries:

Argentina	Dominican Republic	Mexico
Brazil	Ecuador	Paraguay
Chile	El Salvador	Peru
Colombia	Guatemala	United States
Costa Rica	Haiti	Uruguay
Cuba	Honduras	Venezuela

The Pan American Zoonoses Center was planned for operation beginning in 1955, but no funds were available. Nevertheless, Azul, Argentina, where the Government offered grounds and a building, was chosen as the site for the Center.

In the continued absence of financial support from OAS/TA in 1955 and the declaration by OAS of the impossibility of financing the Center in 1956 and 1957, the project was presented to the WHO for financing with UN/TA funds.

With limited support from this source, the Center was established in August 1956, when an agreement (Annex I) covering the Center was signed by the Argentine Government (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Agriculture, and of Public Health) and PASB/WHO.

III. Objectives

The Pan American Zoonoses Center is designed to promote and strengthen governmental activities against the zoonoses in the countries of the Americas. This objective can be reached only insofar as sound technical programs of research, control, and eradication are developed in each country.

It is planned that the Center will emphasize the education and training of technical and paratechnical personnel in techniques and methods to be used in attacking the zoonoses. It should also:

- a) Conduct epidemiological and epizootiological studies of the zoonoses;
- b) Conduct laboratory and field research for improving the diagnosis, treatment, and control of the zoonoses;
- c) Promote and coordinate such research in governmental and private institutions;
- d) Develop field demonstration activities;
- e) Collect and disseminate information on the zoonoses;
- f) Coordinate international control and eradication programs;
- g) Promote the adoption of standard diagnostic techniques and standard methods of preparing and testing vaccines, serums, antigens, and other biological products.

IV. Operation and Program

The Center is the administrative responsibility of the PASB, in accordance with the agreement between the Government of Argentina and PASB/WHO. This agreement contains general provisions for the participation of other governments and of other interested agencies, such as the Inter-American Institute of Agriculture Sciences of the OAS, the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and private foundations.

Under the headings of training, consultation, laboratory services, research, demonstrations, and information, a general outline of the program of the Center is appended (Annex II). Budget estimates have been prepared to cover the first five years of operation; given adequate financing, it is reasonable to believe the Center will reach a normal operating level by the end of five years.

V. Present Status

Present provisions for the Center include:

- 1) Main building provided by the Host Government of Argentina. This is a two-story T-shaped building on land located in the central part of the City of Azul. Additional funds have been provided by the Government of Argentina for necessary alterations in this building and for the construction of an additional building for auxiliary services.
- 2) The main building contains a limited amount of supplies and equipment provided by the Government of Argentina.
- 3) A farm annex, approximately 10 minutes' driving time from the Center's main building, is being purchased by the Government of Argentina for the use of the Center.
- 4) The Director of the Center is a member of PASB staff, paid from the PASO budget.
- 5) Two members of the Center's technical staff have been recruited and the costs involved, together with limited purchases of supplies, equipment, and services, are being financed from UN/TA funds obtained through WHO.
- 6) A participating-country annual contribution toward the operating costs of the Center is made by the Government of Argentina. This is in addition to the grounds and facilities mentioned above.

The needs of the Center include:

- 1) Additional staff and their training.
- 2) Supplies and equipment.
- 3) Operating costs.
- 4) A working capital fund.

Proposed budgets visualize an ideal progressive increase in expenditure from \$128,982 in 1957 to \$414,968 in 1960, with a drop to \$349,610 for 1961. Installation costs account for the higher expenditures from 1957 through 1960. Fluctuations from the 1961 level will occur as research and training activities vary. Actual budget estimates, of course, will be in accordance with the number of countries participating in the Center and the funds available.

During the initial years of operation the equipping of laboratories, teaching facilities, and support services will require heavy non-recurring expenditures. Nongovernmental agencies and foundations will be invited to participate, through grants, in meeting some of these costs. Early assistance in "tooling up" the Center with both equipment and trained staff will permit the Center to operate efficiently quite some time before long-term financing can be arranged.

VI. Long-term Financing

Achievement of the objectives of the Center requires long-term operation, and provision must therefore be made for adequate long-term financing, quite apart from the participation of PASB/WHO and UN/TA.

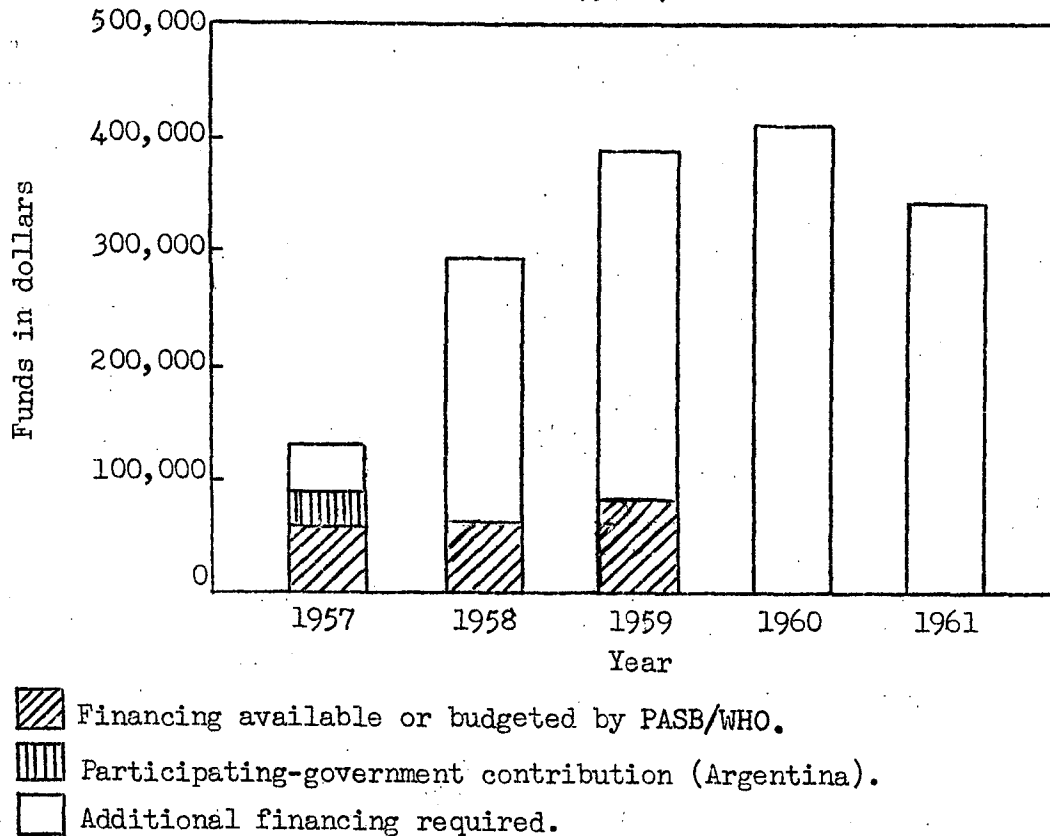
Amounts now appearing in present and proposed budgets, or the amounts probably available under fund sources consistent with anticipated ceilings, are as follows:

<u>Source</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
Host Government <u>1/</u>	14,286	28,571	?	?
PASO	-	23,433	20,799	41,041
WHO/TA	<u>2,574</u>	<u>34,358</u>	<u>40,463</u>	<u>36,956</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 16,860</u>	<u>\$ 86,362</u>	<u>\$ 61,262</u>	<u>\$ 77,997</u>

1/ 1956 contribution of 500,000 pesos converted at the rate prevailing at the time of deposit. 1957 contribution of 1,200,000 pesos converted to U.S. dollars at the June 1957 rate of 42 pesos per dollar. Value of grounds and buildings (present and planned) and farm annex are not included.

A review of the following chart illustrates the gap which exists between these funds and the proposed budgets for ideal operation.

FUNDS AVAILABLE AND REQUIRED TO OPERATE THE P.A.Z.C.,
1957-1961



The need for long-term financing was recognized by the Fourth Regional Health Meeting (Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 1957) of the River Plate countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), which recommended that the Director of the Bureau, together with representatives of governments and interested international agencies, plan the method of guaranteeing the long-term financing of the Center.

A precedent for the financing of scientific training, research, and coordinating centers of vital interest to a number of countries has been established during the past decade in the case of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). INCAP receives considerable support from other sources, but its basic operating budget is financed by annual contributions from the participating countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). A description of the development of INCAP can be found in Annex III.

Financing of the Pan American Zoonoses Center depends on the interest of participating countries and on their acceptance of the principle of joint financing of a cooperative effort of common interest to all. The fact that the zoonoses not only constitute serious health problems, but are of considerable financial importance to the agricultural interests of each country should facilitate arrangements for contributions to the Center and for the organization in each country of the activities necessary for the joint studies and control measures needed for desired progress in this field.

- Annexes: I. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Argentina and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization, with respect to the establishment and operation of a Zoonoses Center for the Americas
- II. Pan American Zoonoses Center - Program
- III. History of the organization and development of the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP)

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AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU, REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WITH RESPECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A ZOONOSES CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS

The Government of the Republic of Argentina (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") and

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the PASB/WHO"),

Recognizing the importance of the zoonoses as a serious public health problem both in rural and urban areas and as an economic burden on the agriculture and livestock industry;

Taking into account the fact that the great majority of the countries of the Americas have formally expressed interest in participating in the organization and maintenance of a Zoonoses Center, and

Desiring to cooperate in establishing and operating a Zoonoses Center for the Americas,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Establishment of the Center

The Government, in the role of "Host Government", accepts and agrees to the installation and operation of the Pan American Zoonoses Center (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") with its site in the territory of the Republic of Argentina. It is understood that "field activities" of the Center may be conducted in any country, through agreement between the PASB/WHO and the Government concerned.

ARTICLE II

Functions

The Center is established to furnish technical assistance to the countries of the Americas on problems arising from the zoonoses. This technical assistance will include:

- a) education and training of technical and sub-technical personnel;
- b) technical advice on the zoonoses;

- c) standardization of diagnostic methods and techniques for biological production, and/or the control of such biologics;
- d) evaluation of methods and procedures and research applied to the zoonoses field;
- e) laboratory diagnostic services;
- f) demonstration of the practical application of anti-zoonosis measures;
- g) preparation and dissemination of information, both technical and popular, on the zoonoses and their control; and
- h) other related activities.

ARTICLE III

Organization and Administration

1. The Center, as an international institution, will be administered by the PASB/WHO.
2. Other agencies interested in the objectives and activities of the Center, especially the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, may participate in the Center by accepting the terms of this Agreement. The arrangements for such participation by any agency will be set forth in an annex to this Agreement, specifying the manner of participation and the respective commitments. Such annex will be signed by the agency desiring to participate and by the parties to the present Agreement.
3. All of the governments of the Americas may participate in the work of the Center and receive its services. These will include services and training facilities mentioned under Article II, as well as field and laboratory investigations as may be agreed upon.
4. The Government shall designate a Coordinating Commission formed by representatives of the Ministry of Social Assistance and Public Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Production, with representatives also from other ministries that may be considered necessary for the efficient operation of the Center, the purpose of which shall be to:
 - a) represent the Government in matters pertaining to the Center;
 - b) facilitate the work of the Center in every way possible.
5. The Center shall have a Technical Advisory Committee, comprising members designated as follows:

- 2 members designated by the Government to be selected from the Coordinating Commission referred to in Section 4.
- 2 members designated by the PASB/WHO
- 1 member designated by each agency, which may subsequently participate under this Agreement.

In addition to the above, the Director of PASB/WHO may invite up to three other national governments to designate one committee member each.

6. The Center will be headed by a director to be appointed by the Director of PASB/WHO. The Director of the Center will be responsible to PASB/WHO for direction of the Center in accordance with policies and procedures of PASB/WHO.
7. The Government empowers the Director of the Center to deal directly with authorities of the Province of Buenos Aires regarding those matters concerned with the operation of the Center.
8. Official technical personnel of the Government, as well as personnel of other participating organizations who may be assigned to the Center, shall perform their functions subject to the regulations of the Center.

ARTICLE IV

Administrative and Financial Commitments of PASB/WHO

PASB/WHO shall provide, subject to the availability of funds under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance for Economic Development and from any other sources, the following personnel, equipment, supplies, and fellowships:

1. Personnel

Director
Chief of Field Services
Chief of Laboratory Services
Administrative Officer
Other personnel as necessary

2. Equipment and Supplies

- 2.1 Scientific, teaching, administrative, and maintenance equipment and supplies other than those provided by the Government under Article V.
- 2.2 Establishment of laboratory animal colonies.
- 2.3 The above-mentioned equipment and supplies shall remain the property of the PASB/WHO.

3. Fellowships and Training

- 3.1 The PASB/WHO shall undertake to select trainees from among those proposed by the Governments of the countries of the Americas to attend courses

and/or receive training at the Center, in accordance with present regulations. The governments, as well as official or private institutions, may also award fellowships for training at the Center, but, in each case, the candidate and the conditions of the fellowship shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Center.

3.2 In consideration of its contributions to the Center, the Government may send an additional number of trainees for training at the Center, over and above the quota assigned to each country, provided that their number does not exceed thirty (30) per cent of the total number of fellowship recipients in any given calendar year.

ARTICLE V

Administrative and Financial Commitments of the Government

The Government agrees to provide, without cost to the PASB/WHO, the following:

1. Grounds and Buildings

1.1 For use as site of the Center beginning on the date this Agreement becomes effective, the buildings and grounds situated on the eastern half of the block located between the streets of España, Rauch, Roca, and 9 de Julio in the city of Azul, Province of Buenos Aires. These buildings and grounds shall be for the exclusive use of the Center during the period it remains in the Argentine Republic.

2. Equipment and Supplies

The equipment, furnishings, and supplies in the building designated as headquarters of the Center, in accordance with the inventory list which accompanies* this Agreement.

3. All land, buildings, and equipment provided by the Government shall revert to the Government upon termination of this Agreement.

4. Funds

A sum, to be fixed by mutual agreement, shall be contributed each year by the Government to the Center. This contribution shall be made effective, in advance, on 31 March of each year, to cover salaries of employees other than those provided under Article IV, as well as costs of construction, repair, improvements, and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and for internal services necessary for the operation of the Center, including among others: telephone, water, gas heating, light, electricity, and insurance on the buildings. Each year the PASB/WHO shall present to the Government a proposed budget relating to the activities to be developed with the Government's contribution.

5. Loan of Personnel

The Ministry of Social Assistance and Public Health and/or the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Production will provide, when deemed necessary

* Inventory list not reproduced for distribution.

short-term specialized personnel to undertake specific functions of a training or investigative nature.

ARTICLE VI

Facilities, Privileges, and Immunities

1. The Government shall apply to the Center and its personnel, as an agency of PASB/WHO, as well as to the funds, properties, and assets of the Center, the provisions and pertinent prerogatives of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.

2. Visas, Residence Permits
United Nations Laissez-Passer

2.1 The Government shall take all measures to facilitate the entry into, residence in, and departure from the Argentine Republic of all persons having official business with the Center, i.e., a) international officials of the Center; b) other officials, experts, and consultants of the PASB/WHO; c) technicians and fellows accepted by the Center to participate in meetings, courses, seminars, or other special studies.

ARTICLE VII

General Provisions

1. Either party may request a revision of this Agreement or of the accompanying Annexes. In this event, the two parties hereto shall consult each other concerning the modifications to be made, and such modifications shall become effective upon agreement reached by both parties.

2. This Agreement may be terminated by either party hereto on 31 December of any year, through written notice to the other party one year in advance.

3. This Agreement shall be interpreted in the light of its fundamental objective, which is to make it possible for the Center to carry out its functions fully and efficiently and to attain its purposes.

4. This Agreement shall enter into effect upon signature.

In Witness Whereof, this Agreement was done and signed in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the tenth day of August of the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

(signed)

Luis A. Podesta Costa
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture

(signed)

Francisco Martinez
Minister of Social Assistance and Public Health

(signed)

Alberto Mercier
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Production

FOR THE PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY BUREAU, REGIONAL
OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

(signed)

Dr. Fred L. Soper
Director

PAN AMERICAN ZOOSES CENTER

Program

The program of the Center has been designed to serve the needs within the Americas for the prevention, control, and eradication of the important zoonoses. Activities of the Center will include:

A. Training

The training activities are to be organized in both short-term and long-term programs. The former will be in the form of special courses, seminars, and workshops, of 1 to 12 weeks duration, with attention given to certain specified topics or fields of work, while the latter will be for selected individuals, for periods of 9 to 12 months. Fellowships for training at the Center will be offered, through the regular channels of the PASB/WHO, and will include transportation and living expenses. The costs involved for fellowships will be borne by international, national, local, or special funds, in each instance in accordance with the standard regulations and rules for operating those funds.

Training methods will make maximum use of techniques for demonstration and trainee-participation. Laboratory work will provide for each trainee to perform the specific techniques required by field campaigns. Field demonstrations will make it possible for participants to become thoroughly familiar with methods for applying recognized measures of disease control.

It is expected that the Zoonoses Center will operate in close cooperation with institutions of higher learning, both in the host country and in other countries of the Americas. Although the exact patterns for such cooperation remain to be developed, there are excellent possibilities for the Center to work with universities, especially schools of public health, medicine, and veterinary medicine at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of studies.

B. Consultation

The consultation services of the Center will be furnished through the regular channels of PASB/WHO. Staff members of the Center will be prepared to visit countries in a consultant capacity, upon request from the government and the Zone concerned, on matters related to the zoonoses and their control.

Special attention will be given to the development in each country of the services necessary for planning and operating control programs for the zoonoses. Such services, based on the concept of united effort, will provide for maximum coordination and cooperation between public health and agricultural livestock agencies, with maximum participation of the community.

C. Laboratory Services

These services include: reference-laboratory diagnosis; promotion of the adoption of standards for antigens, vaccines, serums, and other biological products; confirmatory testing of these products for potency and safety; distribution of virus strains and bacteria cultures for production or challenge purposes, and of standard antigens, vaccines, and serums.

The Center will operate a model colony of laboratory animals which will serve for training, demonstration, and research purposes, as well as for supplying foundation stocks for other institutions.

D. Research

In the program of the Center, research of an applied nature will receive emphasis: e.g., the evaluation of vaccines under field conditions; the application of diagnostic procedures; the assessment of therapeutic drugs; and similar projects. Surveys and epidemiologic-epizootiologic studies will be undertaken. The collection and processing of statistical data on the occurrence and over-all importance of these diseases in man and animals will be undertaken.

The needs and opportunities for research in connection with the zoonoses are vast, and the Center itself can be expected to cover only a very small part of them. It is thus quite evident that governmental and private institutions in all countries must continue and intensify their zoonoses research work. It is a recognized responsibility of the Center to stimulate and coordinate such work.

Grant-supported research projects of a nature requiring financing and personnel beyond that provided by the regular budget of the Center may be undertaken.

E. Demonstrations

Field campaigns against various zoonoses, developed in the local area primarily, will be used for disease-study purposes and for demonstration in connection with training programs. Trainees will study at the

site of the work and will actually participate in zoonoses control programs. Demonstration work will also include the development of special control programs for various zoonoses in different parts of the Americas -- the number, type, and extent of such programs being dependent upon the needs, capabilities, and desires of the country concerned.

F. Information

The Center will serve as the source of both technical and popular information on the zoonoses. Library services will be an important activity, with a service of technical references available to investigators and control officials. Special priority will be given to the collection and indexing of books, periodicals, bulletins, and reports on diseases common to man and animals.

The film library will be made as complete as possible, with a collection of all available films, filmstrips, and slide sets concerning the zoonoses and their control considered to be of practical use in the countries of the Americas. New films will be produced, when possible, on subjects for which no suitable material already exists.

A periodic information bulletin will be published, containing selected abstracts of the current literature on the zoonoses as well as brief references to the latest developments in this field as they may occur in the Americas and elsewhere.

A collection of bulletins, pamphlets, illustrated booklets, posters, exhibits, and other items used with success in the public education aspects of zoonoses control will be maintained for demonstration and loan. New material of this type will be prepared at the Center as the needs and resources permit.

History of Organization and Development of the
Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP)

I. Organizational Phase

At the close of World War II individuals in several of the Central American countries expressed to Dr. Robert S. Harris of the Department of Food Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and subsequently to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, their desire for assistance in organizing food analysis facilities and other nutrition activities. It was suggested that an adequate laboratory and trained staff would be costly and difficult for any single Central American country, but that both the Kellogg Foundation and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau would help if the countries could arrange to combine their resources to support a central institution. A meeting was called in Guatemala, in February 1946, which was attended by representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Dr. Harris and a representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau met with this group, which drew up a 4-year agreement which included the following:

1. The purpose of the Institute was to determine the nutrition problems of the area, find out how they could be solved, and help the member countries to apply these solutions.
2. The Institute would be administered by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which would furnish a scientific director.
3. The countries would pay an equal annual quota to the Bureau to provide the basic operating budget.
4. The Directors of Public Health agreed to meet annually with a representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to constitute a directing council for INCAP.

The offer of the Government of Guatemala to furnish a suitable building to house the activities of the Institute was accepted and Guatemala was chosen as the host country. The W. K. Kellogg Foundation agreed to furnish basic equipment and a fellowship for a physician, a biochemist, a nutritionist, and an agronomist from each member country. The annual quotas were fixed at \$8,500 and the countries agreed to begin paying them in the following year to provide a reserve for initial

expense. Although six countries signed this agreement, payments had been made only by Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras when operations were begun in September of 1949. At this time three biochemists, two physicians, and one nutritionist had received a year of nutrition training in the United States, as Kellogg Foundation fellows, and began work with INCAP. Basic laboratory equipment purchased with Kellogg Foundation funds had also arrived.

II. Initial Operations

During the first few months of INCAP operations, additional personnel were added and a plan of operations gradually developed which involved survey and applied nutrition activities by personnel paid directly by the health departments of the member governments and central activities which involved special laboratory services and technical contributions useful to all of the countries.

Since the initial agreement was due to expire only a few months after the inauguration of INCAP, a meeting was called in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in December 1949, to which the Directors of public health of the six original signatory countries were invited. Out of the discussions of this meeting arose the "Protocol of Tegucigalpa," which set forth the main lines of future development. This agreement, which was to run for five years, provided for continued administration by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and increased the annual quotas to \$12,500. Of particular importance were two other new features:

1. A Technical Advisory Committee of distinguished scientists in nutrition and allied fields was to be appointed annually by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to meet and advise on technical problems relating to the work of INCAP.
2. Each member government agreed to establish a nutrition field unit to consist, at a minimum, of a physician, a nutritionist and a laboratory technician.

With this basis and the help of the Technical Advisory Committee, the program of INCAP became rapidly stronger and more useful to the countries. In 1950 Costa Rica became an active member, in 1951 Panama, and in 1954 Nicaragua. In May of 1950 INCAP requested and received its first outside research grant to help it to conduct comparisons of animal and vegetable protein in the supplementary feeding of children, and two more grants were obtained in the course of the year.

Another important development was the establishment of close working relationships and cooperative projects with the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and national agricultural research programs in several of the member countries. The cooperation of FAO in sending a nutritionist to assist in the organization of nutrition

surveys and in providing fellowships for the training of area personnel in INCAP for work of this type was also of great assistance.

With the stimulus of the central Institute, the concept of the nutrition units in the member countries gradually developed from that of "field teams" to full-fledged divisions or sections of the health departments, and in most of the countries personnel were gradually added to expand applied nutrition programs.

Demonstration and research activities were also steadily growing because of the improvement in numbers of trained personnel and the increase in funds obtained from foundations and other organizations in the U.S. to support these activities. The success of the training program and stability given by the Technical Advisory Committee and by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau's administration made it possible to secure increasing outside support of this type and to double the operating budget in this way by 1954. PASB also helped financially in program expansion by making available in 1951 the services of an Assistant Director and funds for short-term consultants in addition to those already committed.

III. Formation of a Permanent Basis for Operations

By 1951 it had become apparent that the original building provided by Guatemala was becoming increasingly inadequate, and both the Technical Advisory Committee and the Council recommended that appropriate steps be taken to provide more adequate space. The cornerstone of a new building was laid late in 1951 and the building inaugurated in September 1954. This modern, two-and-a-half story building greatly increased laboratory, office, and library space and included special facilities such as an experimental kitchen, a cold room, and animal quarters. Without it, INCAP's present degree of progress would have been impossible. The W. K. Kellogg Foundation continued to assist with funds for basic equipment and fellowships and its contributions to the library and graphic arts facilities in the new building were particularly helpful.

It was also apparent that INCAP should be established on a permanent basis rather than through a series of short-term agreements. A special Committee was appointed at the INCAP Council meeting held in San Salvador in 1951. This Committee drafted a Basic Agreement which was approved by the meeting of the Council in Guatemala, in 1953, for subsequent ratification by the legislature of each country. This agreement, which became effective 1 January 1955, included several important features:

1. INCAP acquired permanent legal status (*personería jurídica*) in the area, with the privileges and immunities appropriate to an international organization.
2. A Council was set up in which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau agreed to be a permanent member along with the six member governments.

3. It was agreed that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau would administer INCAP for at least an additional 5 years, the administrative arrangements at the expiration of the five-year period to be determined by the Council.
4. It was specified that a Technical Advisory Committee would continue to meet annually to advise on INCAP program and technical activities.

In accordance with the progress toward permanence, supplementary grant-in-aid funds from philanthropic foundations, commercial organizations and other sources were sought on a long-term basis and a number of three- and five-year grants have been obtained. There has also been an increasing use of INCAP as a training center in applied nutrition, not only for persons from Latin America but also for specialists from other parts of the world.

The greatest single factor responsible for the present reputation and stability of INCAP, as well as the increasing importance of its technical contributions and training activities, has been the policy of arranging for the training of Latin American personnel to a high level of competence. From the beginning it was urged that the personnel of INCAP should be as well trained for their responsibilities as persons in similar institutions in the United States and Europe.

IV. Benefits

The technical accomplishments of INCAP are a matter of record in the quarterly and annual reports, in hundreds of reports, recommendations, nutrition education publications, and other such documents and in some 150 technical articles. The benefits to the countries have included not only detailed information on dietary habits, on the nutritional status of population groups, and on the nutritive value of available foods and feeds, but also a nucleus of trained personnel in nutrition and allied field and a series of practical measures for solving the nutrition problems of the area.

These have included a food composition table to encourage the effective use of the rich variety of local foods, a method for the iodization of crude salt for the prevention of endemic goiter, demonstrations of the value of vegetable protein in supplementary feeding programs, the development of a low-cost product based on local ingredients for the supplementary and mixed feeding of infants and young children, training of health workers and teachers in the basic principles of nutrition, training of nutritionists and physicians in nutrition, improved methods of treating severe protein malnutrition and measures for its prevention, guidance in the enrichment of wheat and rice, improvement of animal production through cooperative efforts with agricultural agencies, and the selection of varieties of corn and beans of higher nutritive value.

INCAP has focused attention on the urgent need for improving the diet of the pre-school child and on the relationship between diarrheal disease and the subsequent development of kwashiorkor in children who are already malnourished; action programs are now being developed to meet these serious public health nutrition problems.

No single country could have afforded either the laboratory facilities or arranged for the trained personnel to do even a small part of the work accomplished by INCAP in the member countries. Furthermore, because of the contributions of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and various other foundations and organizations, the total amount of money for nutrition work is more than double that contributed by the countries in the form of quotas. Because of the high level of training and morale of the personnel and the continuous expert guidance received from the Technical Advisory Committee and other consultants, this money has been most effectively used in assisting the member countries to solve their nutrition problems.

V. Summary

INCAP has demonstrated that a regional organization which performs certain technical services for a group of countries can be a highly effective mechanism for meeting specialized country needs.