

BOLETÍN
de la
Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana
(REVISTA MENSUAL)

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Año 27

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No. 9

**HEALTH AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA,
BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY***

Their Excellencies the Presidents of the Republics of Argentina, Bolivia and of Paraguay, desirous of continuing the traditional policy of close collaboration and mutual understanding between their peoples, especially in the field of protection and preservation of health, and having in mind the provisions of the Pan American Sanitary Code, ratified by all the countries represented, having decided to subscribe to the present Agreement which was promoted under the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, designated as their Plenipotentiaries:

Dr. Alberto Zwanck, by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Argentina.

Dr. Humberto Pizarro Aráoz, by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Bolivia.

Dr. Carlos M. Ramírez Boettner, by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Paraguay.

Who, after submitting their respective Credentials, executed in good and due form, have signed the present Agreement, as has Dr. Miguel E. Bustamante, Secretary General of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1—The signatory countries agree to adopt permanent preventive measures insofar as possible which will tend to solve the epidemiological problems along the border regions, with regard to malaria, smallpox, yellow fever, plague, typhus fever, tuberculosis, typhoid fever and venereal disease.

Article 2—In case there should develop, along the border sector of any of the signatory countries, an outbreak of any of the diseases mentioned in the previous Article, or of any other diseases not named, but which

* Reached during the Conference called by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in the City of Salta, Republic of Argentina, from March 16th to 20th, 1948, and signed in the City of Buenos Aires, March 30th, 1948.

would mean a menace or danger to any of said countries, at the request of one of them directly or through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, joint committees of sanitary experts from said countries may be formed to take action under mutual agreement.

Article 3—The signatory countries may enter into reciprocal technical assistance arrangements, as well as for the interchange of personnel and elements for the control of health situations. These arrangements may be made directly between the sanitary authorities of the countries interested or through the intervention of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 4—The signatory countries agree to grant reciprocal administrative and economic facilities for the preparation and training of technical personnel.

Article 5—The signatory countries agree to take necessary measures for the strict compliance of the immediate reporting of the first case or cases of the following diseases: plague, typhus fever, yellow fever, cholera and smallpox, in accordance with the provision established by the Pan American Sanitary Code.

Article 6—The signatory countries agree to the full and regular interchange:

- (a) of health officers who are bound to carry out the provisions of this Agreement, at least once a year, in order that they may be informed on the progress achieved in the preventive campaigns against the diseases given in Article 1, and that they may exchange ideas on matters of common interest;
- (b) of complete monthly information on the epidemiological situation and measures adopted;
- (c) of direct and immediate information on the morbidity and mortality in the frontier towns, regarding tuberculosis, venereal disease and its contacts when these may have public health significance in the corresponding communities; including, furthermore, data on the existence of poliomyelitis, typhoid fever, meningococcic meningitis, diphtheria and other diseases which may be of common interest.

Article 7—The signatory countries agree not to adopt international prophylaxis measures which would involve the total closing of the boundaries with a country, and to limit such measures, when these are indispensable, to the affected area. Said measures may only be taken by the national health authorities.

II—PARTICULAR PROVISIONS

MALARIA

Article 8—The signatory countries agree to carry out, in the endemic malaria areas or in those where malarial outbreaks occur, along their respective borders, anti-malarial campaigns tending to reduce to zero the index of transmission, to a depth of not less than five kilometers in each country. These campaigns are to be based primarily on the use of modern insecticides.

SMALLPOX

Article 9—The signatory countries agree:

- (a) to maintain in an intensive and sustained manner in their respective territories, vaccination and re-vaccination against smallpox, on a compulsory basis;
- (b) to attain and maintain a high index of immunity in all communities, especially along the border area;
- (c) to carry out vaccination and re-vaccination campaigns with intervals of not more than three years in the areas where periodical outbreaks of "true smallpox" have occurred;
- (d) to require of international travelers, above three months of age, a certificate of vaccination in accordance with the form approved by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and to recognize the validity of the certificates with positive reaction for a maximum period of five years, under normal health conditions;
- (e) to permit the acceptance of recent certificates of vaccination, without established result, but in that case the health authority of the port of entry should examine the vaccination and note on the certificate the corresponding result.

Article 10—In epidemic situations, any of the signatory countries reserves the right to control the result of the vaccination in persons entering the respective countries.

YELLOW FEVER

Article 11—The signatory countries agree to carry out an intensive and permanent campaign which will insure the eradication of the *Aedes aegypti* from all their territory, in accordance with the resolution of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Organization.

Article 12—The signatory countries agree to maintain free from *Aedes aegypti*, the airports of international traffic, to a distance of not less than a kilometer around the perimeter of the airport.

Article 13—For information on the situation in all river, land and airports, the signatory countries shall communicate every three months to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau the most recent *Stegomyia* index to be published in the Bulletin of said institution.

Article 14—The signatory countries obligate themselves to systematically administer anti-yellow fever vaccine to all persons residing or in transit through the areas known to be endemic.

Article 15—Until the eradication of the *Aedes aegypti* is reached, the health authorities of the signatory countries may demand a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever from any person proceeding from an endemic or epidemic area. This certificate, in order that it may be valid, should show an inoculation administered at least seven days before the date of crossing the frontier by that person.

Article 16—The health authorities of the signatory countries shall maintain a permanent service of epidemiological investigation in the

endemic or suspect areas and shall transmit the data to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in order that recent epidemiological maps may be made, copies of which shall be sent to the high health authorities of each one of the signatory countries, as provided in the previous Articles.

PLAGUE

Article 17—The signatory countries agree to maintain, broaden or reorganize the plague epidemiological and prophylaxis services especially in those border territories where cases of plague have occurred during the last ten years. These services shall act permanently and shall consist fundamentally of campaigns against fleas and rats and of a systematic investigation of the plague infection in reservoirs and transmitters, and these services should cover a distance which would assure proper protection to the neighboring country.

TYPHUS FEVER

Article 18—The signatory countries agree to maintain permanent services of disinsectization in those border areas where typhus fever is endemic or in which confirmed outbreaks have occurred during the last ten years. These services shall cover a depth of about 50 kilometers on each side of the frontier.

TUBERCULOSIS

Article 19—For the purpose of intensifying the campaign against tuberculosis along their border areas, the signatory countries agree to establish, insofar as possible within plans they may adopt, measures:

- a—of X-ray control,
- b—of assistance and of rehabilitation,
- c—tending to broaden the use of anti-tuberculosis immunization,
- d—to improve the general living conditions of the inhabitants.

TYPHOID FEVER

Article 20—The signatory countries agree to make vaccination against typhoid fever compulsory in the border townships where the disease exists in an endemic or epidemic nature, at intervals of one year.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Article 21—The signatory countries agree to organize and maintain in the frontier communities, specialized services for venereal disease which act in a permanent form, based on “prophylaxis by treatment” by the most modern means. These services shall coordinate their measures with the health authorities of the border localities, and should intensify the study and treatment of the contacts. Through direct agreement between the health authorities, the services may be installed in the most

important demographic center along the border, for the treatment of patients coming from both countries.

III—SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 22—The signatory countries, recognizing the importance of the migrations of laborers on the health of the communities, agree to the formation of joint committees comprised of delegates from among their health authorities, for the medical examination of the laborers moving from one country to another, for the purpose of preventing the propagation of communicable diseases.

Article 23—The signatory countries being aware of the effect on the health of their communities by the traffic of the Pan American highway, agree to apply along it, the provisions of this agreement.

Article 24—The signatory countries agree to assure the purity (chemical and bacteriological) of the water provided to the railways, aircraft and other carriers engaged in international traffic.

Article 25—The signatory countries agree, insofar as possible, to take all measures in order to prevent the pollution of the waterways along the border, for the protection of the health and the economy of the countries.

Article 26—The signatory countries agree to carry out joint campaigns on popular health education, to maintain a permanent interchange of information, and to promote the creation and support the functioning of border medical associations, stimulating the study of public health problems of interest to neighboring countries.

Article 27—The crews of the international transports, aircraft, railways and other carriers, should be obliged to carry an international health certificate approved by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 28—As a permanent measure, and in face of the eventual possibility of the transportation of vectors by the airways, it is agreed to demand of the air navigating companies that the airports and the passenger and cargo planes undergo disinsectization measures, through procedures as given below.

Article 29—The international airway companies shall be obliged to apply disinsectization, using the methods and intervals as recommended by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, to the interior of the aircraft including all its sections at the beginning of the flight at the last port of call before entering the bordering country. Without prejudice to that which has been previously prescribed, the health authorities at the terminal landing may disinsectize the aircraft after the passengers have alighted.

Article 30—The obligations contained in the preceding Article, shall hold also for civil airplanes making international flights and should be applied and controlled by the health authorities of the country of departure of the aircraft, and the health authorities of the country of arrival

may demand the corresponding certificate of inspection or control issued by the health authorities of the country of departure.

Article 31—Disinsectization measures shall be adopted for international passenger and freight trains and other land carriers which may transport the *Aedes aegypti* and other vectors.

Article 32—The health authorities of the signatory countries shall promote the adoption of similar procedures of disinsectization as those given for commercial aircraft, for aircraft of their armed forces crossing the frontiers.

Article 33—Any observation on the data given on the vaccination certificates and other documents required by this Agreement, should be communicated to the health authorities of the country of origin of the document.

Article 34—The signatory countries, between whose neighboring ports there exists heavy passenger traffic, may, through normal health conditions, set aside the usual health requisites.

Article 35—The officers under the health authorities of each country having the responsibility of the border services, shall be provided with special credentials permitting them to enter into direct contact with their colleagues of the neighboring country, at any point along the border.

Article 36—The signatory countries shall immediately notify the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of all measures taken in regard to this Agreement.

IV—FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 37—The present Agreement is signed in quadruplicate and shall be delivered to the Plenipotentiaries of the signatory countries and to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Article 38—The present Agreement shall be approved by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with the respective constitutional procedures and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau shall be notified. In the meanwhile, it shall enter into force as of the date of its signing and the High Contracting Parties agree to carry it out insofar as their legislative ordinances permit.

In the City of Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina, on the thirtieth day of the month of March of the year one thousand ninehundred and forty-eight, this Agreement is signed by:

For the Argentine Republic

(signed) Dr. ALBERTO ZWANCK

For the Republic of Bolivia

(signed) DR. HUMBERTO PIZARRO ARÁOZ

For the Republic of Paraguay

(signed) DR. CARLOS M. RAMÍREZ BOETTNER

For the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

(signed) DR. MIGUEL E. BUSTAMANTE