



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



24th DIRECTING COUNCIL

28th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 27 September – 7 October 1976

RESOLUTION

CD24.R31

NEED FOR INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF AIR TRAVELERS

THE 24th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering the ever-increasing volume of persons traveling by air and the expansion of air transport networks and interlinkage of local and international flights;

Cognizant therefore of the increased danger of the importation of new diseases, for which no preventive measures are taken at present, such as Lassa fever, into countries where the knowledge of these diseases is limited and urgent laboratory diagnosis may not be possible; and

Noting the recommendations of the Executive Committee contained in Document CD24/23 on the termination of compulsory smallpox vaccination for international travelers in the Americas,

RESOLVES

1. To request the Director to take steps to maintain and expand the system of disease surveillance and rapid exchange of information between Member Countries of the Region, and to bring this matter of new diseases and their special problem for the countries to the attention of the WHO Committee on International Surveillance of Communicable Diseases.
2. To urge Governments to liaise with airlines to ensure the availability of necessary information relating to passengers who may have been exposed to communicable disease during travel and to

improve the training of airline personnel regarding the importance of illness occurring among passengers.

3. To request the Director to provide updated guidelines and training manuals to enable Governments to revise their protection procedures and reorient their port-health personnel in order to reflect the new requirements which may be necessary to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases by air travelers.

Sept.–Oct. 1976 OD 146, 74