

*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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REPORT ON THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON ANIMAL HEALTH

The I Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health was held at the Headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 17 April 1980, in accordance with the convocation issued by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The officers of the Meeting were as follows: President, Dr. Germán Bula Hoyos, Minister of Agriculture of Colombia; Vice Presidents, Dr. Gavin B. Kennard, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, and Dr. Rubén Fernández Gómez, Under Secretary for Livestock of Mexico; and Rapporteur, Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, Chief of Administration of the National Animal Health Service of Paraguay.

The reports of the Member Governments summarized the activities carried on in 1979 and referred to the current status of progress toward fulfillment of the recommendations and goals for animal health and veterinary public health set down in the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas for reducing the prevalence of all zoonoses; to extend the areas declared free of them; to strengthen surveillance systems; to set up new laboratories and improve existing ones; to increase the production and supply of vaccines; to increase the personnel of veterinary services; and to control and, if possible, to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in South America and prevent the introduction of the disease into countries free of it.

The Member Governments of the Organization have repeatedly maintained that the relationship between Agriculture and Health through the biological sciences is a very close one, with implications for health, the economy and welfare. At the RIMSA I Meeting it was reiterated that it was urgent for the health and agriculture sectors to coordinate their programs of action in the field of the zoonoses and of other animal diseases which, while not transmitted to man, diminish the production of essential proteins and restrict economic growth. When these objectives

were viewed from a biological standpoint, it was perceived that the principles and methods for their interpretation and the standards and practices for organizing the services to reduce the prevalence of those diseases, were the same.

The Directors of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers reported on the technical cooperation offered to the countries and on other activities carried out during 1979, and the programs of the two Centers were presented and analyzed, and received the firm support of the delegates.

It was plain that the Centers were operating at a financial deficit, and it was requested that every avenue be explored to find solutions to their budgetary problems, for their operations were intimately bound up with the animal health programs of the countries, and these, in turn, with the nutrition and welfare of their populations.

The Delegates were advised that the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization in 1979 had approved supplementary budgets to maintain the operating capacity of the Centers only for 1980.

In addition, a Committee for Evaluation of the Centers had been formed and had begun its work early in 1980, and it was expected that its report would be submitted to the Governing Bodies in the course of this year.

During RIMSA I a panel discussion was conducted on animals in human life, in which the following subjects were considered: a) The Animal and the Society; b) Animals and Zoonoses. General Bases for Zoonoses Control; c) Biological Energy and the Plant-Animal Trade-off; d) Animals for Medical Research and Testing; and e) The Importance of Animals in the Socio-economic Development of the Countries.

The Ministers stated their views on the close relationship between animals and man throughout history. Animals had played a significant part in human life, and today there was ample proof of the great importance of many animal species as sources of foods essential for human nutrition, in biomedical research, and in the socioeconomic development of the countries in the Region.

Technical meetings were also held on animal health training programs in Latin America and UNDP collaboration in regional projects for animal health and for regional laboratories for the production of biologicals for veterinary use.

Other topics considered by the Meeting included the epidemiological surveillance of rabies, the equine encephalitides, and vesicular diseases in the Americas; the research program of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, described by that Center's Scientific Advisory Committee; a report on the animal health program of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences; a report on the participation of the Inter-American Development Bank in animal health programs; and a report on the Seventh Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

In addition to the resolutions approving the programs of the Pan American Zoonoses and Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centers, other recommendations related to animal health programs were formulated in resolutions on the breeding of nonhuman primates for biomedical research; the second phase of the Regional Education Program for Animal Health Assistants in the Caribbean; veterinary manpower for the Caribbean region; the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; continuation of the study of the animal health situation in the Americas; control and eradication of rabies in the Americas; and on the production and control of biologicals.

The Final Report of the RIMSA I Meeting is annexed for the information of the Members of the Committee.

Annex



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

CE84/22 (Eng.)
ANNEX

I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON ANIMAL HEALTH

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Washington, D.C., USA, 14-17 April 1980

RMSA1/FR (Eng.)
17 April 1980
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH-SPANISH

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FINAL REPORT

The I Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health was held in the Headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 17 April 1980, in accordance with the convocation issued by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau pursuant to Resolution XIX approved by the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization at its XVII Meeting.

OFFICERS

The Officers of the Meeting were as follows:

President: Dr. Germán Bula Hoyos
Minister of Agriculture of Colombia

Vice Presidents: Dr. Gavin B. Kennard
Minister of Agriculture of Guyana

Dr. Rubén Fernández Gómez
Undersecretary for Livestock of Mexico

Rapporteur: Dr. Juan Pablo Romero
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Chief of Administration of the
National Animal Service of Paraguay

Dr. Héctor R. Acuña, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary ex officio.

PARTICIPANTS

The following Governments were represented at the Meeting: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Also present were observers for Australia, and for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Office of Epizootics, the Organization of American States, the Regional International Organization for Plant and Animal Health, and the Secretariat of the Treaty on Central American Economic Integration.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Dr. Acuña welcomed the participants in the I Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health, which continued the Inter-American Meetings on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control begun in 1968, and whose name was changed on the recommendation of the Ministers of Agriculture in the last of those meetings, held at Willemstad, Curaçao, last year.

He said that the Meeting would provide an opportunity to determine the policy and priorities of the Pan American Zoonoses and Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centers, whose principal purpose was to strengthen the infrastructure of national animal health and veterinary public health services in order to increase livestock production and reduce the incidence of animal diseases transmissible to man.

He noted that the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO, held in 1979, had approved supplementary budgets to sustain the operating capacity of the Centers in 1980, and that an External Evaluation Committee, which began its work early this year, would present its recommendations on the Centers to the Governing Bodies of the Organization at an early date.

He reiterated to the Governments of Argentina and Brazil his Organization's appreciation for their constant support and valuable contributions to the Centers, and to the other countries in the Hemisphere as well, for cooperation that had enabled those Centers to work effectively in the spirit of technical cooperation among developing countries.

He underscored the importance of the contribution of the Inter-American Development Bank to the strengthening of animal health programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the cooperation of the Canadian International Development Agency, the United Nations Development Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other international agencies.

The goal of health for all by the year 2000 required, he said, a concentration of efforts on a policy in which animal health and veterinary public health were rendered more workable by the joint programs and activities that might spring up from meetings of the technical standing of the one now beginning.

Then Mr. P. R. (Bobby) Smith, Deputy Secretary for Marketing Services and Transportation in the United States Department of Agriculture, welcomed the participants in the meeting to Washington, D.C., and expressed his good

wishes for the success of their deliberations. He was cognizant of the importance of animal health for productivity and food production and the socio-economic well-being of peoples, and commended PAHO and the IDB for the support they had been providing in the animal health sector. He added that his Government was resolved to go on working with the international agencies and the countries in the war on animal diseases, and particularly for the eradication of the most important among them, like foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever.

The meeting then proceeded to consider item 3 of the Agenda: "Analysis of the Program and Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center." Dr. Luis V. Meléndez, Director of the Center, described the principal activities carried on since 1957, with special reference to 1979, and particularly those involved in the control of brucellosis, hydatidosis and other parasitic zoonoses, leptospirosis, rabies, tuberculosis, and food microbiology.

With reference to the budget, he spoke of the strong inflation besetting Argentina, whose effects prevented accomplishment of the purpose of the Directing Council of PAHO in approving, in its XXVI Meeting held in the previous year, Resolution XXVIII authorizing a supplementary budget of US\$537,100 for the Center in 1980. As had been recommended at the XII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control, these funds were assigned to restore the Center's budget to the original operating level. Now, however, they were to be used chiefly to cover inflationary cost increases, which compelled the reduction or elimination of some activities so that others of higher priority could be preserved.

The President called attention to the dramatic financial situation of CEPANZO, and asked that in the meeting every conceivable avenue be explored to find a solution to the problem of the Center's budget, for its operations were intimately bound up with the animal health programs of the countries, and these, in turn, with the nutrition of their populations.

In this regard, the Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands announced that, under an agreement with the World Health Organization, his Government was arranging to hire two experts to strengthen the professional staff of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, which, he added, could also be done at CEPANZO.

At the request of the Representative of Argentina, the Director of the Center and the Budget Chief of PASB gave some explanations about the presentation of the budget. The Director also cited the contribution of the National Institute of Industrial Technology of Argentina to the CEPANZO program for training human resources in food microbiology as an example of cooperation by the countries.

The Representative of the United States of America noted that a number of measures could be taken to solve the situation, such as voluntary financial contributions, support in the form of national personnel, and training in cooperation with the countries themselves. He felt it was important to read any preliminary report that might have been prepared by the committee for evaluation of the Pan American Zoonoses and Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centers mentioned by the Director of PASB.

The Deputy Director of PASB reported that the committee was currently collecting data from the Centers and the countries and would submit its report to the Meeting of the Directing Council in September.

The Representative of Mexico voiced his concern over the imbalance between the allocations for personnel and for the operating costs of CEPANZO. In his opinion, the only choice was either to increase the operating budget substantially, or to reduce the Center's programs.

The Representative of Brazil said that both the Zoonoses Center and the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center should serve as reference centers for the countries, and he proposed a study on the order of priority of their functions, and that the countries make more harmonious contributions from their own resources to the solution of their chronic problems. He felt it was important to defer consideration of the budgets of the Centers until the report of the committee for evaluation of the Centers has been seen and the Directing Council of PAHO had taken its decisions for 1980. He also underscored the need to find definite solutions, including the support of international technical and financial organizations.

The Representatives of Uruguay, Chile, Guatemala and Ecuador expressed their thanks to CEPANZO and their full support for the work it has been doing. They were agreeable to the various options for solving the problem of the budget proposed by the representatives who had spoken in the discussions.

Replying to a remark by the Representative of the United States of America, the Representative of the IDB said that a regional project for technical cooperation in the health field was being processed in the technical departments of the Bank.

During the second plenary session, chaired by Dr. Germán Bula Hoyos and held on the afternoon of 14 April, Dr. J. J. Callis, Director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, presented the report of the Committee's meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in November of the previous year. He briefly described the most significant results the Center had

achieved since its inception in 1952. The Committee recommended that the Center maintain an emergency reserve of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, and that greater efforts be made to control the quality of vaccine produced in the countries. He restated the need for better material resources for the various functions, and particularly for staff for the information and training units.

In conclusion, he expressed the Committee's full confidence in the Center as a valuable component of the countries' efforts against foot-and-mouth disease and in the field of animal health in general.

Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, presented the program and budget of the Center for 1980 (item 2). He summarized and evaluated the results of the programs for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Hemisphere, and of the part the Center had played in them.

He said that more attention was now being given to perfecting diagnostic techniques and to methods for the production and control of vaccine, and he referred to the establishment of an emergency antigen bank and to the extension of demonstration plans with oil-adjuvant vaccine, of which the Center would produce one million doses this year. He stressed the importance of development of the hemispheric information system for the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases and its effects on regionalization of the fight against foot-and-mouth disease in South America.

In regard to the Center's budget, he warned that the additional fund of US\$504,300 for the 1980 budget period approved by Resolution XXVIII of the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of PAHO would only partly restore its operations to the previous year's level.

The President dwelt on the importance of the work of this institution, particularly in the transfer of technology, as in the case of the oil-adjuvant vaccine, which would enhance the efficiency of foot-and-mouth disease programs in South America. He voiced concern over the insufficiency of the Center's financial resources, which was causing a problem similar to that of the Pan American Zoonoses Center. In reply to a request for information from the Representative of Paraguay, he summarized the outcome of his presentation to the Governing Bodies of PAHO in compliance with the mandate of the XII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control.

The Representative of Paraguay thanked PAHO for the cooperation his country was receiving from the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, the results of which were particularly reflected in the implementation of agreements entered into with neighboring countries, in the training of human resources, in vaccine control, and in the conduct of epidemiological studies.

The Representative of Guyana called attention to the possible danger in reducing the Centers' activities, particularly for those countries of scarce economic and technical resources, without first determining its order of priorities.

It appeared from the discussions, the President explained, that there was unanimous agreement that the Centers should be revitalized through financial solutions that would enable them to rationalize their programs without having to curtail them.

The Representative of Panama referred to the spirit of technical cooperation among the countries--one of the ways of reinforcing the programs' activities--and said that the Vesicular Disease Diagnosis Laboratory was scheduled to open in Panama in August to serve the countries of Central America, for which a larger financial contribution toward its operations was reckoned with from the Government of the United States of America under its bilateral cooperation agreement with Panama.

The Representative of the Dominican Republic emphasized the need to review the Centers' fixed costs. He agreed it was advisable to consider a voluntary increase in the countries' quotas, and to identify and establish an order of priorities in the programs.

Dr. Robert Goic, Chief of Technical Cooperation of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, reported on the status of vesicular diseases in the Americas.

Given the positive results achieved by some countries in Latin America in the control of foot-and-mouth disease, it was vital for the others to correct the defects noted in the execution of their programs, particularly in the administrative area, so as to bring about a change in the situation of this disease in the Hemisphere.

The experience of recent years made for greater confidence in working for prevention of the disease in the Northern Hemisphere, and for its eventual eradication in the affected countries.

Dr. Humberto Olmos Colmenares, Director of Animal Health in the Ministry of Agriculture of Venezuela, presented the report of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20 and 21 March 1980. He summarized the various topics that were discussed at the Meeting, and referred especially to the commitment the South American countries had made to reorient their programs toward eradicating foot-and-mouth disease. He referred to the importance of international aid, and said how welcome had been the news of possible cooperation by the European Economic Community.

The President suggested that the Secretariat and the Rapporteur prepare a proposed resolution on the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers, bringing together the proposals made during the first plenary session, as a basis for discussion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The third plenary session, held on the morning of 15 April, was devoted to consideration of item 4: Panel on Animals in Human Life. Papers were presented by Dr. Alan M. Beck, Dr. Elmer Escobar Cifuentes, Dr. George C. Poppensiek, Dr. Joe R. Held and Dr. Ramón Rodríguez Toro.

The Representative of Chile asked for the floor to explain, in broad terms, his country's animal health policy. He said that the campaign to control animal diseases had used a double-barrelled approach--both epidemiological and economic--which recognized the importance of domestic and foreign marketing. The same principle was being applied to the prevention of exotic diseases. He mentioned the efforts being made by the Agricultural Service of the Ministry of Agriculture to eradicate brucellosis, hog cholera, hydatidosis and, particularly, foot-and-mouth disease. These efforts were succeeding thanks to excellent coordination between the Ministry and the cattlemen themselves, who were aware of the advantages of eliminating the disease from the entire country. He underlined that, for the first time in its history, Chile had recently been able to build up a national herd of three and a half million head of cattle as the result of a new livestock development policy.

The fourth plenary session, held on the afternoon of 15 April, began consideration of item 5, on the current status of implementation of the recommendations and attainment of the goals in animal health and veterinary public health established in the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas. The veterinary public health advisers assigned to the various areas of PAHO presented the consolidated reports on the countries included in the following areas:

- Country Reports, Caribbean region (Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, French Antilles, French Guiana, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos) and of Area I (Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela), presented by Dr. Augusto Vallenias, Area Adviser.
- Country Reports, Area II (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico), presented by Dr. Enrique Mora, Area Adviser.

- Country Reports, Area III (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), presented by Dr. Jorge Escalante, Area Adviser.
- Country Reports, Area IV (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru), presented by Dr. Héctor Campos López, Area Adviser.

After a recess, Dr. Rubén A. Lombardo, Chief of Technical Cooperation of the Pan American Zoonoses Center, presented reports on the epidemiological surveillance of rabies and of the equine encephalitides in the Americas (items 9 and 8).

As in previous years, rabies in Canada and the United States of America occurred mostly among wild animals, while in Latin America it was most prevalent among domestic animals, particularly dogs. There was a notable increase in such cases in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, while Patagonia (both Chilean and Argentinian), Uruguay and some islands in the Caribbean continued free of infection. Estimates were that 250,000 people were vaccinated in Latin America each year. He pointed to the significance of the Pan American Zoonoses Center's demonstration that a reduced schedule of high-potency suckling mouse brain vaccine could be used in treating humans. He insisted that there was an urgent need, in light of an enormous population growth in urban areas and an increase in the canine population, to conduct programs to eradicate rabies in the cities. On the problem of bovine rabies, he reported that a number of countries had already begun or were about to begin control programs, encouraged by the evidence that some anti-coagulant substances were of decisive assistance in controlling vampires.

As to the equine encephalitides, although some new outbreaks had been reported, it was possible to keep them under control in the Americas in 1979. Viral activity was noted in Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela. EEO virus was identified in Canada, and EEE virus in Peru and Venezuela. Vaccination of 645,000 equines was recorded in eight countries.

Dr. Gustavo Reta, Regional Adviser on Veterinary Public Health, PASB, presented a report on implementation of the resolutions of the XII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control, published in PAHO Scientific Publication No. 391, and reported on the activities the countries and the Organization had carried out in the field of animal health since that meeting.

The fifth plenary session, chaired by Dr. Rubén Fernández Gómez, the Second Vice President of the Meeting, continued discussion of item 5 with the presentation of the reports on Area V, Area VI, and Canada and the United States of America.

The Rapporteur then placed before the meeting a proposed resolution on the program and budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1980 and 1981.

The Representative of Colombia spoke of the need for a concerted effort by the ministries of agriculture and health to solve the food problems of their populations, and he was therefore concerned that the Governing Bodies of PAHO had not completely accepted the recommendation of RICAZ XII for revitalization of the Centers. The budget amounts were insignificant in comparison with the socioeconomic losses inflicted by animal diseases. It would thus be contradictory to entrust more and more activities to PAHO unless the Centers were allocated the resources they needed. He thus proposed that the resolution state that the budget for 1981 should not be lower than the 1980 budget.

The Representative of Cuba agreed with the views of the Representative of Colombia, and added that the Meeting should reiterate Resolution XIII of RICAZ XII on the presentation of RIMSAl to the Governing Bodies of PAHO in order to secure its implementation.

The Representative of Brazil proposed some stylistic changes to be taken into account in considering the final version of the proposed resolution.

The Representative of Argentina felt that it would be advisable to study with care the recommendation that the 1981 budget not be lower than that for 1980, and asked that specific figures be written into the resolution, in accordance with the text he submitted to the Meeting.

Dr. Acuña, the Director of PASB, said that, in his opinion, the Governing Bodies of the Organization had received the recommendations of RICAZ XII with real sympathy and interest, but had been faced with the problem of apportioning very limited financial resources to both human health and animal health, at a time when the priority needs of the former were on the increase. He nonetheless recognized that other development sectors would have to help solve health problems, and that the agricultural sector would have a major part to play. He explained that the external evaluation committee's report would become a document of the Governing Bodies which, in accordance with the Regulations, had to be sent to the Governments 30 days prior to their meetings.

The Representative of Paraguay proposed that a paragraph be included in the proposed resolution to emphasize the recommendations of RICAZ XII on the supplementary figures to increase the Centers' 1981 budgets.

It was decided to postpone consideration of the proposed resolutions and the proposed amendments to them until the sixth plenary session.

During the sixth plenary session held on the afternoon of 16 April, Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo presented a report on the animal health program of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Referring to the serious consequences of animal diseases on the productivity of livestock and particularly on food production, he described the Institute's efforts to solve the problem in cooperation with international and regional agencies. The proposal to establish an animal health program, which had been approved by the Board of Directors of the Institute at its Eighteenth Annual Meeting held in La Paz, Bolivia, in May 1979, had led to the holding of the First Meeting of Animal Health Directors in San José, Costa Rica, in August of that year. That meeting had decided that the program's main objectives would be the prevention, control and eradication of economically significant diseases, through development and reinforcement of the countries' veterinary health services. He announced that Dr. Francis J. Mulhern had been appointed Director of the IICA Animal Health Program and that, thanks to the kind cooperation of the Director of PASB, Dr. Pedro A. Acha had been temporarily assigned as a Special Adviser to the Director General of IICA on animal health matters. In concluding, he placed the IICA program and infrastructure at the disposal of the Representatives to provide a stable launching-pad for the fight to control animal diseases in the Americas.

Dr. Francis J. Mulhern then gave a detailed presentation on the IICA animal health program. He thanked PAHO for its work in the field of information on animal health, work that would provide a solid basis for the preparation of projects. In the Northern Zone, systems would be studied to control or eradicate cattle ticks and screwworms. In the Antilles Zone, priority would be given to diagnostic and quarantine services and, of course, to the control of African swine fever in the affected countries.

In the Andean and Southern Zones, efforts would be centered on reducing the incidence of hog cholera. With regard to exotic diseases, it was planned to set up an emergency committee, backed by a special fund, to cooperate with the countries during the first stages of the fight against recently-introduced diseases. It was anticipated that the program would start execution in the countries in 1981.

After this presentation, the Representative of Costa Rica emphasized the significance for the countries of the Region of the Central American Program for the Control of Bovine Parasites, currently under way. IICA had been asked for its support in enabling the program to continue, particularly with the applied research on tick control.

The Representative of Cuba then summarized his country's work to stamp out the outbreak of African swine fever that had appeared in the eastern part of the island in January. Until then, 1,288 suspected samples of the disease had been examined. The most recent positive diagnosis had

been on 20 February. There had been a total of 55 outbreaks, all of which had been stamped out. This had meant sacrificing more than 150,000 hogs, 100,000 of which had been incinerated, and the rest used, after proper treatment. The situation was now one of observation and evaluation, so that Cuba could again be declared free of African swine fever.

The Representative of the Dominican Republic reported on the status of the program to eradicate African swine fever in his country, which was being conducted with the help of the United States of America and international agencies. The basis of the program was the total destruction of the hog population, estimated at 1,500,000 animals. As of April, 1,300,000 hogs had been sacrificed, and it was anticipated that the final goal would be reached in August. He emphasized that his country was seriously concerned over the fact that Haiti did not have a similar program, and suggested that international agencies give it further assistance in conducting activities in this field.

The Representative of Haiti said that his Government was making all possible efforts to deal with the problem, but that there was no doubt that it would require properly coordinated active cooperation by other countries.

Mr. Mauricio Hermán, Observer from the Inter-American Development Bank, then presented a detailed report on the IDB's participation in the animal health programs that were being undertaken in the countries of the Americas (item 7).

The 15 loans approved for projects in this field had amounted to US\$110 million over a period of 12 years, up to the end of 1979. He said that the Bank had been the most important source of external financing to its member countries, having provided more than 90 per cent of such assistance. Ever since it had started its financial aid to the countries for animal health projects, the Bank had been in close contact with PAHO, whose advice had been fundamental in the use of technical cooperation funds.

He said that after the African swine fever virus had appeared for a second time in the Region of the Americas in 1978, the Bank had, in 1979, stepped up financial aid and technical cooperation relations between the countries and the institutions involved in the agricultural and livestock economy, and had worked jointly with other specialized technical agencies. He concluded by listing three recommendations by the Bank for perfecting animal health projects, with particular attention to small producers.

At the request of the President, the Rapporteur then read the proposed resolution on the program and budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1980 and 1981, together with an amendment proposed by the Representative of the United States of America.

Following a discussion in which the Representatives of the United States of America, Colombia, Paraguay, Canada, Uruguay and Peru took the floor, the proposed resolution was adopted with the amendment proposed, by 16 votes in favor.

Consideration was then given to the proposed resolution on the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1980 and 1981.

The Representative of the United States of America requested that operative paragraph 2. The Representatives of Paraguay and Uruguay strongly urged that the proposed resolution be adopted as a whole, without amendment. It was finally put to the vote; the amendment having been approved, the proposed resolution was adopted, as amended, by 18 votes in favor, with Paraguay and Uruguay among those not supporting the resolution.

The proceedings of 17 April began at 8:00 a.m. with two technical meetings: one on UNDP cooperation in regional animal health projects and regional laboratories for the production of biologicals for veterinary use, and the other on an animal health training project in Latin America to be financed by the IDB.

The seventh plenary session opened at 9:30 a.m. on the same day under the presidency of Dr. Bula Hoyos.

The President asked the Rapporteur to read out the pending proposed resolutions.

The Rapporteur read out the proposed resolution presented by the United States of America on the breeding of primates, which was unanimously approved. Similarly approved were those on the Regional Educational Program for the Training of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Assistants (REPAHA), phase II, presented by Trinidad and Tobago, and on veterinary manpower, presented by Jamaica.

He then read the proposed resolution on the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), presented by Chile and also unanimously approved with an amendment of style suggested by the Representative of FAO.

Venezuela presented a proposed resolution for a study of the animal health situation in the Americas, which was unanimously approved.

The Representative of Argentina pointed out that the resolution approved on the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease conflicted with the one approved the previous day on the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. Resolution VII of the Seventh Regular Session of COSALFA had recommended that steps be taken

to secure approval of the expansion budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. The Representative of the United States of America said that, in his view, there was no conflict between the two resolutions, since the COSALFA resolution was simply a recommendation to RIMSA which RIMSA had decided not to follow.

A lively debate arose on the subject with the participation of the Representatives of the United States of America, Nicaragua, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Canada, and Paraguay.

The President pointed out that, in his judgement and from a legal standpoint, the resolution on the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease nullified the incompatible points in the resolution approved the previous day on the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, and specifically in operative paragraph 2 thereof.

Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Deputy Director of PASB, said that Resolution II would remain in effect as it stands unless the Meeting specifically reversed it.

The Representative of Ecuador read out the proposed resolution on the control and eradication of rabies, which was unanimously approved with an amendment suggested by the Representative of Argentina.

The Representative of Mexico read out a proposed resolution expressing the appreciation of the Meeting for the accomplishments of Dr. Pedro N. Acha, which was approved by acclamation.

The Representative of Argentina requested that the Meeting consider revising the resolution on the program and budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center, approved the previous day, to bring it into agreement with the one on the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in regard to the financial situation, which view was shared by Colombia and Paraguay.

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Directing Council, the motion was put to a vote, and rejected when it failed to carry two thirds of the necessary votes. At the request of the Representative of Nicaragua, a role-call vote was taken.

The Representative of Brazil explained that the position of his Government stemmed from the fact that it was unable to pass on any proposal involving budgetary increases because it had had no time to examine the relevant documents of the Centers.

The Representative of El Salvador presented a proposed resolution on the production and control of biologicals, which was unanimously approved following a debate in which the Representatives of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama proposed amendments.

Finally, the Representative of Costa Rica presented a proposed resolution on a research project for the possible control of ticks, which was unanimously approved.

The Representative of the International Office of Epizootics thanked PAHO for its invitation to the Meeting. He referred to the common objectives of the two institutions and to the growing exchanges of information between them and the Member Countries. He voiced his hope for an intensification of the common effort to control animal diseases.

The Representative of Nicaragua expressed the great interest of his Government in the agricultural sector, and appealed to all the countries and international agencies for effective collaboration with the Department of Animal Health.

The closing session was held on the afternoon of 17 April. The Rapporteur read out the Final Report of the Meeting, and it was unanimously approved with amendments proposed by the Representatives of Costa Rica, Paraguay, the United States of America, and the Observer for the IDB.

Dr. Héctor R. Acuña, Director of PASB, expressed gratification for the important work done by RIMSA I, whose resolutions and valuable views would be transmitted to the Governing Bodies of PAHO in hopes of a favorable reception, as on previous occasions. The Organization, he said, welcomed the establishment of the new Animal Health Program in IICA, which would be complemented by the work of PAHO in this field.

He stated that the study of the animal health situation in the Americas, which PAHO had performed and distributed to the countries, would be kept up to date. He reaffirmed the Organization's full support for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in the Americas, and hoped that all activities would continue to be coordinated through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

The Representative of the United States of America then commended the President for his conduct of the Meeting, and expressed the hope that the conclusions reached in it would be reflected in actions for the benefit of all the countries.

Before closing the Meeting, the President thanked the Representatives on behalf of his country for the honor of having elected him, and congratulated them on the fruitfulness of their deliberations. He stressed the importance of the scientific papers presented for the enlargement of our understanding of animal health problems, which had severe repercussions on food production. He was aware of the valuable work being done in this field by the Pan American-Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers, and expressed confidence that the Governing Bodies would give PAHO the resources

needed to solve their budgetary problems. He also urged the Representatives of the countries to do what they could to ensure that the voluntary contributions were actually paid in. He made quite clear, however, that these possible contributions were no more than palliatives, and would by no means take the place of the solid regular budget needed for good planning. Lastly, he thanked PAHO for organizing the Meeting and all the Representatives for their valuable collaboration.

RESOLUTION I

PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN ZOOSES CENTER
FOR 1980 AND 1981

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having analyzed the program and budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center (Document RIMSAl/5), and in view of the need to know the report of the external committee for evaluation of the Centers;

Bearing in mind that RICAZ XII recommended the provision of additional amounts in the budget of that Center for the biennium 1980-1981, and that the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization approved only an amount for the restoration of operations during 1980, and instructed the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to present a report by an external evaluation committee, on which approval of the budget for 1981 would depend; and

Aware of the need to maintain the operations of the Pan American Zoonoses Center at an efficient level as part of the support given to national programs for the prevention and eradication of those diseases in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Director that the report on the Centers, to be presented by the external evaluation committee to the Governing Bodies of the Organization, be brought to the knowledge of the Governments of the Member Countries before it is presented to the Governing Bodies of the Organization in their meetings to be held in 1980.

2. To request the Director to urge the Member Governments of the Organization, in their meetings to be held in 1980, as well as international, bilateral and private institutions, to make voluntary contributions to an extent that will ensure that the operating budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center in 1981 reaches at least the level of the Center's budget for 1980.

3. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that, in consultation with the countries, he present at RIMSAl II a document setting the priorities of the Pan American Zoonoses Center, taking account of the programs that emerge from the regional strategies for attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000, the report of the external evaluation committee, and the recommendations of the Center's Scientific Advisory Committee, as an aid to efficient utilization of the budgeted funds.

4. To recommend to the Member and Participating Governments that they consider the possibility of providing extraordinary support to the technical cooperation activities of the Pan American Zoonoses Center in the form of voluntary contributions and the participation of specialized manpower.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
16 April 1980)

RESOLUTION II

PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER
FOR 1980 AND 1981

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having analyzed the program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (Document RIMSAl/4) and the Report of its Scientific Advisory Committee (Document RIMSAl/6), and in view of the need to know the report of the external evaluation committee of the Centers;

Bearing in mind that RICAZ XII recommended the provision of additional amounts in the budget of that Center for the biennium 1980-1981, and that the XXVI Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization approved only an amount for the restoration of operations during 1980, and instructed the Director of the the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to present a report by an external evaluation committee, on which approval of the budget for 1981 would depend; and

Aware of the need to maintain the operations of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center at an efficient level as part of the support given to national programs for the prevention and eradication of this disease in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend maintenance of the priority objectives and operations of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center as contained in Document RIMSAl/4, and to request the Pan American Health Organization that, for their accomplishment, it take into consideration those aspects which are compatible with the report of the external evaluation committee, after the Member Governments have presented their views.

2. To encourage the Member Governments to consider the conduct with the Center of specific projects which are consistent with their objectives and priorities, reinforce the operating capacity of the Center, and are executed on a basis of technical cooperation among developing countries.

3. To request the international technical cooperation and financial agencies and bilateral and private institutions to make extraordinary contributions to expand and improve the operating capacity of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and of the programs in progress in the countries.

4. To request the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to take appropriate steps so that the Member Governments and international, bilateral and private institutions will consider the possibility of voluntarily contributing additional funds to the regular budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
16 April 1980)

RESOLUTION III

THE BREEDING OF PRIMATES

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the growing importance of American (neotropical) non-human primates in biomedical research, vaccine production, and testing of therapeutic substances in current use;

Cognizant of the support that Peru has given to the establishment of a primate breeding center at Iquitos, where various species of non-human primates are now being bred, and to the conduct of primatological programs in reserves in the Amazon jungle;

Considering that the Governments of Brazil and Colombia have decided to initiate primatological programs, and to develop primate breeding centers;

Having observed that the Pan American Health Organization, in keeping with recommendations of the World Health Assembly, has been working with the countries of the Region in fostering programs for the breeding, conservation and supply of nonhuman primates; and

Aware of the need for active measures to preserve as well as to improve the supply and delivery of nonhuman primates for biomedical purposes,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend and thank the Government of Peru for its support to primatology programs.
2. To recommend to the Governments of Brazil and Colombia that they continue developing their nonhuman primate programs.
3. To urge countries with natural nonhuman primate populations to ensure the preservation and rational use of these animals on a technically sound basis.
4. To recommend to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau that he continue collaborating with countries in the Region interested in conducting primatological programs that will ensure preservation and rational use of these animals on a technically sound basis.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION IV

REPAHA PHASE II PROJECT

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Recognizing the continuous need for animal health and veterinary public health assistants in the Caribbean region; and

Conscious of the successful establishment of Regional Educational Program for Training of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Assistants (REPAHA) in Guyana with the excellent cooperation from the Governments of the region and external international agencies,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Government of Guyana for the completion of the physical facilities of REPAHA.
2. To acknowledge the cooperation of the participating Governments and external international agencies.
3. To request the Governments of the region to give urgent consideration and to endorse phase II of the REPAHA project document already submitted by UNDP.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION V

VETERINARY MANPOWER

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Aware of the constant threat of exotic animal diseases in the Caribbean region;

Recognizing the need to maintain and improve animal health and veterinary public health services;

Cognizant of the need to overcome livestock underdevelopment in the region; and

Aware of the continuous attrition of trained manpower,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Governments to continuously strive to ensure staffing arrangements that are adequate, stable and satisfying, as well as to provide facilities and working conditions to promote career development of veterinary manpower.

2. To request the continued support of the Governments for the establishment of the Regional School of Veterinary Medicine in Trinidad and Tobago.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION VI

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having examined the report of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA VII), held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20 and 21 March 1980;

Viewing with particular interest the intention expressed by the European Economic Community of collaborating in the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America; and

Taking account of the gains made in the study on regionalization of the control of foot-and-mouth disease, based on epidemiological characterization of the disease at the hemispheric level,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the resolutions of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

2. To insist on the advisability that all technical and financial assistance be rendered in the regional concept established by the countries of the Americas for the control of foot-and-mouth disease.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION VII

STUDY OF THE ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION IN THE AMERICAS

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that the first stage of the diagnosis of the animal health situation in the Americas, as a basis for planning animal health activities in the American countries, has been completed;

Bearing in mind that the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, which provided important guidelines for the execution of animal health and veterinary public health programs in the countries of the Region, comes to an end this year; and

Cognizant of the need of a source of guidance for policies and of strategies for animal health activities in the American countries for the coming decade, with a view to a more effective contribution to attainment of the goal of health for all by the year 2000,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Pan American Health Organization to continue the study of the animal health situation in the Americas.
2. To request the Pan American Health Organization that in the II Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health, it present a preliminary document based on the aforementioned study and outlining policies and strategies as a guide to the planning of animal health activities for the next decade.
3. To recommend that, if necessary, resources of the Special Fund for Animal Health Research be used to accomplish the foregoing.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION VIII

RABIES CONTROL AND ERADICATION

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the alarming increase in the incidence of human and animal rabies in most of the countries of the Region;

Cognizant that bovine paralytic rabies remains a major obstacle to livestock development in many American countries;

Bearing in mind that there are at present technical resources both in the areas of diagnosis, production and biologicals, and vector and predator control, and in the understanding of the epidemiology of the disease, and means for combating it which facilitate the implementation and completion of effective control programs; and

Recognizing that, despite the efforts made by the countries and the technical resources available, it has not been possible to attain the goals set for the control of this disease, either in man or in animals,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Pan American Health Organization to give priority attention in its programs for cooperation with the countries to programs for both urban and bovine paralytic rabies.
2. To recommend that the Pan American Zoonoses Center concentrate its efforts on and give priority to the rabies problem, and that it expand its direct cooperation with the countries in the areas of diagnosis, production of biologicals, epidemiology, and control systems, provided that sufficient budgetary funds are available for that purpose.
3. To urge the Governments of the American countries with rabies problems within their borders to implement national rabies control programs with the firm resolve of eventually eradicating the disease.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION IX

VOTE OF APPRECIATION TO DR. PEDRO N. ACHA

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

In recognition of the extraordinary accomplishments of Dr. Pedro N. Acha in the field of veterinary public health and animal health in the Hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

To express appreciation to Dr. Pedro N. Acha for the professional dedication with which he served for many years as an officer of the Pan American Health Organization in its programs for improving the lives of the people in the countries of the Region.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION X

PRODUCTION AND CONTROL OF BIOLOGICALS

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having in mind the reports presented by several countries on laboratories for the production and control of biologicals for veterinary use;

Acquainted with the initiatives taken by the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama for the production of such biologicals;

Considering the importance of animal health programs for livestock development, and that the availability of biological products of certified quality and in sufficient quantities is an essential requirement for their proper execution; and

Observing that the countries of the Region face a serious problem in the quality control of biologicals for veterinary use,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama for their initiatives and the work they have done in the production and control of biologicals for veterinary use.

2. To request the Director of the Pan American Health Organization to give firm support to the structuring of a regional program for the production and control of biologicals for veterinary use, including Mexico, Central America and Panama.

3. To repeat its request to the United Nations Development Program for financial support so that the regional program for the production of biologicals and their quality control, previously mentioned, and the necessary technical assistance, may be put into practice as soon as possible.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

RESOLUTION XI

PROPOSAL FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF TICK CONTROL

THE I INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the growing importance of the economic losses from tick-borne diseases of livestock in the Americas;

Having noted from research already done that Boophilus may have developed a resistance to commercial pesticides; and

Aware of the need to learn more about the interrelations between the distribution of these vectors, their ecology, and the diseases they cause,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the IICA that, as part of its new involvement in animal health projects, it contribute to the program already in progress in Costa Rica for research into the possibility of controlling ticks and tick-borne diseases for the benefit of the livestock of all the countries in Central America, Mexico and Panama, in addition to countries keeping livestock of tropical or subtropical type.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
17 April 1980)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Meeting and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretary ex officio, sign the present Final Report in the English and the Spanish Languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, this seventeenth day of April, nineteen hundred and eighty. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and shall send copies thereof to the Governments of the Organization.

Germán Bula Hoyos
President of the Meeting
Representative of Colombia

Héctor R. Acuña
Secretary ex officio of the Meeting
Director of the
Pan American Sanitary Bureau