



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



17th DIRECTING COUNCIL

19th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 2 – 12 October 1967

RESOLUTION

CD17.R14

POLIOMYELITIS

THE 17th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Considering that in spite of immunization programs poliomyelitis continues to be a serious health problem because of insufficient coverage of the exposed population;

Bearing in mind that improvements in environmental sanitation and rising standards of living have reduced opportunities for contact with the virus in the first years of life, and that consequently older segments of the population continue to be susceptible to the disease;

Recognizing that extensive epidemics of the disease have recently occurred in some countries and that the incidence of the disease may go on increasing in the immediate future and even more severe outbreaks may occur; and

Taking into account that the appropriate use of vaccine has made it possible to reduce the incidence of the disease in countries in which the effective immunity level has been attained,

RESOLVES

1. To recommend to the Governments that in order to protect all the susceptible population against poliomyelitis they conduct systematic general immunization programs in which priority attention is given to the most vulnerable age groups.

- 2 To recommend to the Governments that, without prejudice to their continuing their regular immunization programs, effort be made to achieve the highest immunity level as quickly as possible by conducting mass oral vaccination campaigns of the shortest possible duration and covering the highest possible percentage of the susceptible population, so as to break the chain of transmission.
3. To recommend that, in order to achieve appropriate coverage, mass immunization campaigns be based on the voting districts in countries where this or a similar system exists,
4. To urge Governments to improve their epidemiological and statistical services so as to obtain prompt notification of cases, thereby enabling the trend of the disease to be ascertained and the causative virus to be typed at an early stage.
- 5, To request the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to continue to provide the countries with such assistance as they request in bringing epidemic outbreaks under control and in facilitating the purchase of vaccines, and to give them such technical advisory services as are considered necessary.
6. To congratulate the Government of Nicaragua on the excellent campaign it waged against the poliomyelitis epidemic in the child population of that country.

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