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PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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WORLD
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REPORT OF THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON
ANIMAL HEALTH

The III Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA III) was held at the Headquarters building of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., from 11 to 14 April 1983.

The purpose of the Meeting was to review the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and of the Pan American Zoonoses Center, analyze the general programs of technical cooperation of the Program of Veterinary Public Health of the Pan American Health Organization, and discuss the status of animal health and veterinary public health in the countries.

The Meeting approved 18 resolutions on: the new perspectives of the Program of Veterinary Public Health of the Pan American Health Organization; the budgets of the two Pan American Centers; the strategies to control urban rabies in the Hemisphere until the end of the present decade; the supply of vaccines against the most important zoonoses; and on various veterinary public health and animal health subjects.

The III 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 11 to 14 April 1983, in accordance with the convocation issued by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau pursuant to Resolution XIX⁽¹⁾ approved by the Directing Council of PAHO at its XVII Meeting.

(1) PAHO Official Document 82 (1968) pp. 26-28.

The heads of delegation elected by acclamation the following officers: President, Mr. Hamilton Green, Vice President and Minister of Agriculture, Guyana; Vice Presidents, Dr. Ubiratan Mendes Serrão, National Secretary for the Protection of Agriculture, Brazil, and Dr. John Atwell, Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, United States of America; and Rapporteur, Dr. Nelson Magallanes, General Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Uruguay.

The following Governments were represented at the Meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Also present were observers for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Office of Epizootics, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America.

The Ministers of Agriculture and their representatives analyzed the new perspectives of the Veterinary Public Health Program as part of the Health Programs Development of the new structure of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. The proposed activities of scientific and technical cooperation of the Program are oriented to meet the needs of PAHO Member Governments in attaining self-reliance through the use of appropriate technology and active community participation, effectively utilizing their intersectoral resources and sharing technical cooperation. Based on the Plan of Action for the Instrumentation of the Regional Strategies for Health for All by the Year 2000, the Veterinary Public Health Program includes the following components: zoonoses, foot-and-mouth disease, food safety, laboratory animal medicine, veterinary public health, education and training, veterinary medical contributions to environmental quality, and veterinary public health support of human health services.

The proposed programs and budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers for 1984-1985 were submitted to the Meeting. These had been drawn up by the Secretariat as an integral part of the overall program of technical cooperation of the Veterinary Public Health Program. After reviewing and analyzing the two budgets, the delegates gave them their strong endorsement. The two Centers reported on the technical cooperation they had offered to the countries and other activities they had carried out during 1982 and the first months of 1983.

Two panels were held during the Meeting, one on strategies for the elimination of urban rabies in the Americas by 1990 and the other on animal health/veterinary public health participation in primary health care.

The Ministers of Health of Ecuador and Nicaragua acted as Moderators on the rabies panel, during which the current global situation of rabies, the role of wild animals in urban rabies, the rabies control programs in Argentina and Brazil, the most recent advancements in rabies research, and the technical cooperation of PAHO on rabies were discussed.

The panel on primary health care included presentations on the basic concepts behind the goal of health for all by the year 2000 and its basic strategy; the elements of primary health care and their implications for veterinary public health programs; the participation of veterinary medicine in basic health care; and the implications of the animal health and veterinary public health policies and strategies for the Plan of Action for health for all by the year 2000.

The delegates emphasized, during the discussions and analysis that followed the presentations of the two panels, the close interrelationship that exists between animal health and human health and the need for an active coordination between the sectors of agriculture and health for the control of rabies and other zoonoses and for the socioeconomic development of the countries.

Other agenda items included epidemiological surveillance of rabies, equine encephalitis, and vesicular diseases in the Americas, reports on the IX and X Regular Meetings of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and reports by the Scientific Advisory Committees of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers.

Two documents requested and prepared with the collaboration of the Member countries were distributed: "Veterinary Public Health and Animal Health Policy and Strategies in the Americas for the Decade 1981-1990" and "Inter-American Study on the Animal Health Situation."

The Final Report of RIMSA III is annexed.

Annex



CE90/16 (Eng.)

ANNEX

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Washington, D.C., USA, 11-14 April 1983

RIMSA3/FR (Eng.)

14 April 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH-SPANISH

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FINAL REPORT

The III 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 11 to 14 April 1983, in accordance with the convocation issued by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau pursuant to Resolution XIX(1) approved by the Directing Council of PAHO at its XVII Meeting.

OFFICERS

The meeting elected the following officers unanimously:

President: Mr. Hamilton Green
Vice President and Minister of Agriculture,
Guyana

Vice Presidents: Dr. Ubiratan Mendes Serrão
National Secretary for the Protection
of Agriculture, Brazil

Dr. John Atwell
Deputy Administrator for Veterinary Services,
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,
Department of Agriculture, United States of
America

Rapporteur: Dr. Nelson Magallanes
General Director of Veterinary Services,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Uruguay

Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary ex officio.

PARTICIPANTS

The following Governments were represented at the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia,

(1) PAHO Official Document 82 (1968), 74-76.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Also present were observers for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Office of Epizootics, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Speakers at the first session were Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and Mr. John E. Ford, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services in the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America.

Dr. Guerra de Macedo welcomed the delegates and said that the deliberations would enable them to review and examine the proposed programs and budgets of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers. He thanked Argentina and Brazil for their valuable cooperation with and firm support to those Centers.

He then announced that during the meeting two panel discussions would be held on topics of singular relevance to the Member Governments: one on strategies for the elimination of urban rabies from the Americas by 1990, and the other on animal health and veterinary public health programs in primary health care.

He felt that this meeting would become a real forum for the discussion and examination of topics relating to coordination between the sectors of agriculture and health. An allocation of almost 11 per cent of the Organization's regular budget to veterinary public health and animal health activities reflected the importance attached to these fields. He concluded by saying that the Pan American Health Organization would continue to collaborate with the countries in their efforts to arrive at the prevention, control and eradication of the major zoonoses and foot-and-mouth disease.

Speaking for Mr. John Block, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, and for himself, Mr. Ford bade the participants welcome. He stressed the economic importance of animal diseases, their repercussions on public health, and their impact on the development of countries, and he cited several examples from different countries.

After referring to the work of the international agencies, including IICA and FAO, he stressed the work of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers in the development of governmental animal health and veterinary public health services.

Finally, he gave a brief description of bilateral cooperation with some countries of the Americas for the prevention and control of foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever, and in the eradication of the screwworm, among other activities.

After the coffee break, the meeting took up item 12: New Perspectives of the Veterinary Public Health Program of the Pan American Health Organization.

Dr. Mário V. Fernandes, Program Coordinator, Veterinary Public Health, PASB, said that the structure of the Bureau had been changed so that the Member Governments could be offered more effective and scientific technical cooperation geared to the regional strategies for attaining the goal of health for all by the year 2000. He cited the principal areas of this cooperation: the zoonoses, foot-and-mouth disease and other vesicular diseases, food safety, animal medicine laboratories, veterinary public health education, contributing to the quality of the environment, and direct support to human health services. He also referred to the specialized staff resources, the objectives and strategies of the program, and the regional goals to be attained by 1990.

Thereupon, the meeting turned to a consideration of item 1: Analysis of the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1984-1985. Dr. Virgilio Escutia, Jr., Director of the Center, reported on the work done in 1981 and 1982, on the programs of operations for 1983 and for 1984-1985, and the proposed programs for 1986-1987. He spoke of the Center's cooperation in training and information, epidemiological surveillance, technical counseling on the conduct of zoonosis control programs, rabies research laboratories, parasitic and bacterial zoonoses, and food protection and hygiene.

He then presented the budgets for 1982-1983, 1984-1985, and 1986-1987, and highlighted the Argentine Government's cooperation in improving the installations furnished by it to the Center.

After commending Dr. Fernandes and Dr. Escutia on their presentations, the Representative of Brazil made an analysis of the operations of CEPANZO. He solicited the support of the Governments for the strengthening of this Center and announced that Brazil would contribute US\$645,000 for that purpose. He felt that two professionals

The Representative of Haiti requested support for his country in the conduct of a food production project and suggested that the budget for laboratories be reduced in order to allocate funds for external service activities.

The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda seconded the request of the Representative of Grenada for technical cooperation, and asked that the Caribbean be considered a special area, particularly in regard to rabies.

The Representative of the United States of America, returning to the CEPANZO budget, presented a percentage analysis--which did not appear in the documents as written--and asked for an explanation at the reason for the increases in the funds allotted to short-term consultants, travel, seminars and fellowships. He also suggested that CEPANZO review the research projects in progress, some of which were also being conducted by other organizations, and suggested that CEPANZO devote itself to research areas of greatest impact.

Dr. Pedro N. Acha, Acting Area Director, Health Programs Development, PAHO, explained that the increases referred to in the question of the Representative of the United States of America were moderate and were due to the natural increase of costs for the hiring of short-term consultants, travel fares and related expenses, and that the same applied to seminars and fellowships. The requests by various speakers highlighted the need for assistance in these fields.

Dr. Mário V. Fernandes, Program Coordinator, Veterinary Public Health, PASB, explained that CEPANZO's work and research were geared to the new policy directives of PAHO. While more emphasis would be placed on the Eastern Caribbean area insofar as technical cooperation was concerned, given the existing constraints he did not consider direct financial support to be feasible.

With reference to the cost increases mentioned by the Representative of the United States of America, he explained that the figures were for a period of two years and that the increase was not actually very significant in light of the requests from the countries and the number of CEPANZO professionals involved.

Dr. Luis Sarrazín Dávila, Minister of Public Health of Ecuador, stated his country's satisfaction with the support received from CEPANZO, and asked that the Center's budgets be examined in accordance with the existing epidemiological problems in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. He stressed the advisability of continuing the research work.

In reply to the questions of the Representative of United States of America, Dr. Escutia explained that the expenses of the first phase of alteration of the CEPANZO building were covered in their entirety by the Argentine Government, while in the second phase the funds used were those generated by exchange rate differences owing to inflation. He said that the budget had not broken down the expenditures by programs because CEPANZO was regarded as one single program unit.

Restating Dr. Escutia's explanations, Dr. Fernandes said that the item at letter I on page 35 of Document RIMSA3/7 represented funds for covering the expenses of moving CEPANZO to the new buildings, and for the installation of certain equipment. The amounts of US\$382,000 and \$594,000 shown in the regular budgets for 1984-1985 and 1986-1987, respectively, were for the upkeep and operation of the new laboratories.

In regard to the increase in the new budget, he recalled that two years previously the operations of CEPANZO had been curtailed to laboratory work, and that its technical cooperation had to be reactivated. He asked that the matter of reactivating CEPANZO's technical cooperation activities be considered jointly with the conduct of veterinary public health programs and said that efforts would be made to comply with the requests put forth by the Delegations of Haiti, Jamaica and Guyana.

The Representative of Ecuador also asked that funds be allocated for personnel training at CEPANZO and that, in view of the rabies emergency in his country and in Colombia and Peru, and of the difficulties of obtaining vaccines for administration to humans and dogs, PAHO give priority to the distribution of that product and maintain a reserve stock for such emergencies.

The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda asked that CEPANZO place more emphasis on collaboration with the Caribbean countries. He said that three leading zoonoses--tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and dermatophilosis--were present in his country and requested the Center's assistance in the performance of studies, determining the prevalence of those zoonoses, and designing programs for their control and eradication, and not only technical, but financial support as well. He also noted the need for work in food hygiene and microbiology.

The Representative of Grenada thanked CEPANZO for its support, requested collaboration for the control of rabies, which was a very important disease of mongooses and dogs and was causing livestock losses, and expressed the view that the Caribbean diagnostic laboratory should be reactivated.

The Representative of Haiti requested support for his country in the conduct of a food production project and suggested that the budget for laboratories be reduced in order to allocate funds for external service activities.

The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda seconded the request of the Representative of Grenada for technical cooperation, and asked that the Caribbean be considered a special area, particularly in regard to rabies.

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The Representative of Haiti reiterated the need for greater support in the form of technical cooperation, particularly with reference to rabies vaccines.

The second plenary session opened with the consideration of Item 2, Analysis of the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1984-1985. Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Director of the Center, presented the proposed program and budget for 1984-1985. He briefly summarized and evaluated the Center's work during 1981-1982 and described its 1983 activities in the areas of training, laboratory and field services, reporting and surveillance systems, vaccine production and quality control, research, and extrabudgetary projects. He presented a specific analysis of the Center's program and budget for the 1984-1985 biennium, and of the frame of reference for the cooperation to be delivered by the Center during the 1986-1987 biennium.

The Representative of Paraguay said he construed the applause following Dr. Casas' presentation as an indication of support for the services rendered by PANAFTOSA and for its 1984-1985 biennial budget. The Center was extending valuable assistance to his country in foot-and-mouth disease control, in the training of technical personnel, in vaccine production, in the organization of courses, and in the program for training veterinarians in animal health.

The Representative of Bolivia expressed agreement with his colleague from Paraguay and drew attention to the intensification of PANAFTOSA's work since the establishment of COSALFA. The existence in Latin American of one country, Chile, which is free of foot-and-mouth disease represented, in his view, a stimulus for supporting the budget presented for PANAFTOSA.

The Representative of Colombia transmitted the greetings of his country's Minister of Agriculture to those attending the meeting, and also congratulated the new Director of PASB. He expressed satisfaction over the orientations being given to the Organization, as reflected in Dr. Fernandes' presentation. Dr. Casas' report reflected the intensity and quality of the work being done by PANAFTOSA, as well as the importance of the training in vaccine control, which had led to the reduction in foot-and-mouth disease. With the Center's assistance, oil-adjuvanted vaccine was being produced at the VECOL laboratories in Colombia.

The Representative of Belize supported the request of the Representative of Jamaica that a consultant be stationed in Jamaica for the control of brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. He commended Dr. Casas on his presentation concerning the work of the Center during the 1981-1982 biennium. He added that extending the areas in Latin America that are free of foot-and-mouth disease until the disease is eradicated represented a real challenge.

The Representative of the Dominican Republic said that his country had a biological substances production laboratory that could cooperate with Haiti to the extent allowed by current economic constraints.

The Representative of the United States of America welcomed the Representative of Belize and expressed agreement with the remarks of the Representatives of Bolivia, Colombia and Paraguay commending Dr. Casas for the report on PANAFTOSA. After noting the reductions in the 1980-1981 budget and the increases in the 1982 budget, he asked the reasons for the 21% increase in the budget for 1986-1987.

The Representative of Brazil joined in the commendations to Dr. Casas and mentioned the points in the report which he felt were particularly important, such as the transfer of technology for the production of oil-adjuvant vaccine, the publication of the epidemiological bulletin and the monographs and, in the area of research, vaccine quality control and genetic engineering. He reported that his country had contributed in various ways to the Center's extrabudgetary funds and hoped that given the satisfactory evaluation of the work accomplished, there would be no problem in approving the budget submitted.

The Representative of Venezuela underscored the importance of the programs and budgets of CEPANZO and PANAFTOSA, in view of their orientation toward the elimination of zoonoses and other contagious diseases of animals that limited the production of animal proteins. He said that despite the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry had asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pledge an allocation of US\$1,372,733 as his country's contribution to PAHO, the request had not been accepted in its entirety owing to current economic constraints. This request, however, had been sent to the Ministry of the Economy for reconsideration.

The Representatives of Peru and Cuba joined the expressions of satisfaction with the work performed by the Pan American Zoonoses and Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centers and stressed the need for the international agencies to extend support to the Eastern Caribbean countries and the need to encourage an exchange of information and experience among the countries of the area. This was a position that was shared by the Rapporteur in his capacity as Representative of Uruguay.

Dr. Casas expressed appreciation for the words of congratulation and support he had received, which, he said, would encourage him to continue his work with even greater enthusiasm. Regarding the question from the Representative of the United States of America, he explained that no budgetary increases other than the normal ones had been projected for personnel costs; while there had been a reduction of 39 posts to be filled by local recruitment and 5 professional-grade posts, consideration

was being given to the possibility of increases in future budgets. Moreover, in the 1984-1985 budget there was a redistribution of \$200,000 with respect to the 1982-1983 budget, owing to the fact that the sale of vaccine made it possible to purchase equipment and supplies. The figures for 1986-1987 were provisional and therefore subject to reconsideration.

The Representative of Jamaica asked that consideration be given to the Caribbean area countries' need for antigen for the diagnosis of brucellosis. This item was currently being received from CEPANZO, and delivery was subject to many problems of transportation. Accordingly, the possibility of producing them in the Caribbean area should be studied.

The President requested the Rapporteur to prepare a draft resolution on production in the Caribbean of antigens for the diagnosis of brucellosis.

The Observer from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture commended both Centers for their work in behalf of the countries of the Americas.

The Meeting then considered Item 4: Report to the Director of PASB by the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. Dr. Jerry J. Callis, Director, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, United States Department of Agriculture, presented the evaluation report on the Center's work, stressing the conclusions and recommendations with respect to training, field services and laboratory work, and collaboration with other international cooperation agencies.

Dr. Joe Held, National Institutes of Health, United States of America, in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Pan American Zoonoses Center, introduced Item 3. Dr. Held presented a brief evaluation report on the CEPANZO program and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, emphasizing the need to resume activities in the areas of leptospirosis and epidemiology and provide greater support to research having immediate applications.

The third plenary session began on the morning of 12 April with consideration of Item 7: Report on Epidemiological Surveillance of Rabies in the Americas, 1981-1982. Dr. Nathan Honigman, Control Program Adviser, CEPANZO, presented the report, stressing the countries that were rabies-free. He analyzed the human cases, which in 1980 had reached the highest figures since 1970. In general, rabies had declined in domestic animals but increased in wild animals during 1981.

Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Director, Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, then presented Item 8, Report on Epidemiological Surveillance of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Vesicular Diseases in the Americas, 1981-1982. He reported that in the affected countries, foot-and-mouth disease had continued to decline in 1982 and that in those that were free of the disease, vesicular stomatitis had continued to be endemic (except for Belize and Canada), showing a higher incidence than in previous years. He concluded his statement with a summary of the results obtained through the system for Hemisphere-wide reporting and surveillance of vesicular diseases.

In presenting Item 6, Report on Epidemiological Surveillance of Equine Encephalitides in the Americas, 1981-1982, Dr. Nathan Honigman, Control Programs Adviser, CEPANZO, reported that in 1981-1982 the number of cases in horses had been very high in comparison with the figures for the previous decade, except for 1972 and 1973. The number of human cases reported had not shown significant change during the reporting period, though the average figures had declined in comparison with those for previous years. He ended by recommending that, given the large increase in the number of animal cases, the countries strengthen surveillance systems in the affected areas so as to avoid the reappearance of epizootics.

The Representative of Paraguay reported on rabies control activities in his country and requested CEPANZO cooperation for adjusting the national animal health program (tuberculosis and brucellosis).

With respect to equine encephalitis, he thanked CEPANZO and the Government of Argentina for the prompt reporting of the outbreak in that country, which had enabled preventive measures to be adopted.

With reference to foot-and-mouth disease, the Representative of Argentina reported that the reduction in the number of foci had been the result of efforts made over a number of years. These efforts had consisted essentially of improvements of the quality of vaccine as a result of more stringent regulation, intensification of vaccination drives carried out during predetermined periods, which facilitated inspection, and improvement in diagnostic techniques.

The equine encephalitis outbreak in his country had led to the enactment of legislation providing for compulsory annual vaccination of equines.

The Representative of Haiti stressed that one of his country's main problems with rabies was the shortage of vaccine.

The Representative of Brazil noted that the information that had been presented suggested a need for greater cooperation between the human and animal health sectors in the epidemiological surveillance of rabies. Such cooperation should be coordinated on a regional scale by CEPANZO. He suggested that CEPANZO also complement the training programs in epidemiology, rabies control strategies, and vector control.

The Government of Brazil currently has a foot-and-mouth disease control program, which is aimed at expanding the areas free of the disease. As for equine encephalitis, it improved the system of epidemiological surveillance, particularly along the border areas.

The Representative of Peru proposed that the Governments be reminded of the commitment to provide prompt information on rabies and encephalitis so as to improve the system of Hemisphere-wide surveillance.

The Representative of the United States of America said he would complete the information supplied to both Centers on cases of vesicular stomatitis and equine encephalitis.

The Representative of Ecuador construed the message on rabies control to mean that there was a need for concerted action. He noted that weather problems affecting his country had been a further difficulty in foot-and-mouth disease control during 1982 and 1983.

The Representative of Guyana indicated that the countries that do not produce vaccines against equine encephalitis experience difficulties in obtaining them rapidly, and asked that PAHO bear this problem in mind. The Representative of Jamaica supported this request.

The Representative of Mexico reported that his country has a continuing program of annual vaccination against equine encephalitis and that it runs a surveillance system with control animals. A study would be conducted to determine levels of risks in the various regions of the country and to adapt the program of action.

In connection with equine encephalitis, the Observer from IICA asked whether it was true that ecological nuclei existed in Colombia, and whether it would not better to control the disease on a Hemisphere-wide level, rather than treating focal points. He also wished to know whether there were any strategy for creating areas free of foot-and-mouth disease from the south to the north, on a global basis, rather than by foci of infection.

Dr. Honigman replied that CEPANZO did not have specific studies on the problem of the ecological nucleus of equine encephalitis in Colombia. He said that he agreed with the Observer from IICA that action to prevent and control equine encephalitis should be at the regional level. This would give the international agencies an important role to play.

Dr. Fernandes added that Venezuela and Colombia would shortly be holding a seminar on equine encephalitis, at which these points would be clarified and measures could be adopted.

Dr. Casas, PANAFTOSA, said that the countries' strategy is to select free areas and then to expand them or create other new areas. He said that the region of the Argentine Mesopotamia, Uruguay and the State of Rio Grande do Sul will take joint action because of their geographical proximity.

The Representative of Argentina suggested that in view of its new facilities, CEPANZO might expand its work on the diagnosis and surveillance of equine encephalitis.

Dr. Fernandes told the meeting of the unilateral decision to designate the Plum Island Laboratory as the reference laboratory for vesicular diseases in the region of Central America and the Caribbean, thereby ignoring the decision of the governments represented at RICAZ and RIMSA, which had designated the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center as the reference center for vesicular diseases.

After the recess, Dr. Quentin M. West, Deputy Director General of IICA, indicated that by decision of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (the governing body of IICA), the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health had been created in 1980. Its functions included directing the policies and strategies for IICA's technical cooperation program. He stressed the Institute's work in the field of animal health in the Hemisphere, citing as an example the eradication of african swine fever in Haiti.

He referred to the decisions taken by the Governing Bodies of PAHO and more recently IICA, to the effect that the two institutions would conduct a joint study on the possibility of transferring the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to IICA's animal health program.

The Observer from the International Office of Epizootics, Dr. Luis V. Meléndez, Chief of the Technical Department, presented that agency's report and detailed the activities that it has been conducting with the cooperation of the Member States. He stressed the zoosanitary information system currently in use, and reiterated the fundamental importance of establishing specific epidemiological surveillance programs in the countries in order to provide rapid information on epizootic outbreaks.

At the fourth plenary session, the proposed resolution on endorsement of the new perspectives of the program of technical cooperation in veterinary public health of the Pan American Health Organization was read. At the request of the Representatives of the United States of America, the Bahamas and Antigua, a working group was formed to amend the proposed resolution on the matter.

The Rapporteur then read out the draft resolution on the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1984-1985. The President asked the Rapporteur to introduce the proposed amendments. It was decided that both draft resolutions, with the proposed amendments, would be considered at a subsequent session.

Another draft resolution read out at this session, Reports to the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau by the Scientific Advisory Committees of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers, was adopted with the amendment suggested by the President. A proposed resolution expressing a vote of thanks to the Government of Argentina for its unremitting interest in providing an appropriate facility for CEPANZO was also adopted.

Topic 5, South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Reports on the IX and X Regular Meetings, was also examined at this session. Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, President and Administrative Head of the National Animal Health Service of Paraguay, speaking in his capacity as President of the Commission, summarized the subjects discussed at those meetings and noted that the resolutions adopted there and at previous meetings had been carried out.

Dr. Manuel Moro Somo, Regional Adviser of PASB, then introduced Topic 11, Veterinary Public Health and Animal Health Policy and Strategies in the Americas for the Decade 1981-1990. He briefly described the situation in the Region in these fields and the objectives, strategies and specific actions proposed for the decade. The document on the question would be examined at the next meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health of IICA. He also introduced the paper entitled "Diagnosis of the Animal Health Situation in the Americas," which is an update of the volumes published in 1979. The final versions in Spanish and English would be completed by the second half of the year.

After the recess, the President invited the Representative of Nicaragua to be the Moderator on the Panel on Strategies for the Elimination of Urban Rabies in the Americas by 1990 (Topic 10).

During the Panel, Dr. L. G. Schneider discussed the current global situation of rabies and described the frequency of the disease in the Americas and the epidemiological aspects of urban and wildlife rabies. He also referred to the situation in Europe, Africa and Asia, and discussed the measures being taken worldwide. He insisted that it was necessary to step up scientific developments in virology, improve the effectiveness of the veterinary policing and mass vaccination, strictly observe the laws and regulations, and conduct socioeconomic analyses.

Dr. George Baer introduced the topic "The Role of Wild Animals in Urban Rabies." He described the principal epizootics in foxes in Canada, United States of America and Europe, and said that the disease was

present in various species of bats and raccoons. Epizootics in raccoons have a serious impact on public health, particularly in the United States of America. He went on to describe control measures for wildlife rabies and experiments with oral immunization, which had produced good results with foxes but not in other wildlife species.

The Representative of Venezuela congratulated the speakers, and reported that in his country, in 1979 through 1980, antibodies were discovered in capibara. They were confirmed by the Disease Control Centers, and in 1980 were also detected in Brazil. Subsequently, outbreaks of the disease were recorded in foxes, and apparently it was transmitted to dogs by contact between the two species in city dumps. He also pointed to the problem of the decline in the titer of the vaccines at the time they are used.

Dr. Schneider and Dr. Baer explained that when weather conditions are bad, inactivated vaccines should be used. They said, in connection with the reports on capibara, that epidemiological investigations would have to be done in order to determine their importance.

The Representative of Suriname asked that the document prepared by Dr. Schneider be corrected to indicate that canine rabies did not exist in his country.

Guyana did not have canine rabies either, according to its Representative. However, there was rabies in cattle, transmitted by vampire bats. However, he shared Dr. Baer's opinion that it was advisable to establish control of stray dogs, because such a measure reduces the incidence of accidental bites, in addition to reducing the risk of rabies.

Dr. Zdenek Matyas, Chief, Veterinary Public Health, Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO, reported that the World Health Organization had earmarked funds for three projects to control canine rabies in Asia, Africa and South America.

Dr. Cayola Da Motta, Director of the Mediterranean Center for the Control of Zoonoses, WHO, said that to judge by Dr. Schneider's report, the rabies situation in Turkey, Greece and Spain was very similar, even though the disease in the latter two countries was limited to sporadic, imported outbreaks.

The need for intersectoral coordination, preferably between the health and agriculture sectors, for improved rabies control, was underlined by the Representative of Mexico. He suggested that a proposed resolution be drafted asking PAHO to draw up a plan for coordinating the activities of the public health and animal health sectors, with community participation, in an effort to control the zoonoses.

The Representative of Nicaragua, as Moderator, called attention to the seriousness of the rabies problem. Coordination was vital for rabies control. She reported on an outbreak that had occurred in her country, and said that it had been controlled by means of joint plan of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, with community participation.

In conclusion, Dr. Baer said that rabies control could be reduced to the following activities: surveillance and diagnosis; immunization of dogs, including the preparation and distribution of vaccines; education of the public; and the elimination of stray dogs.

The Panel on Strategies for the Elimination of Urban Rabies continued at the fifth plenary session. The Chairman asked Dr. Luís Sarrazín Dávila, Minister of Health of Ecuador, to serve as Moderator. He took the opportunity on behalf of his Government, to congratulate Dr. Guerra de Macedo on his election as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Dr. Fernando José Pereira Gomes, President of the National Rabies Control Commission of Brazil, reported on his country's Rabies Control Program, its organizational structure and principal activities: prophylactic treatment of humans, vaccination of dogs, laboratory diagnosis, health education, the capture of stray dogs, and surveillance, and also examined the results that had been achieved.

Dr. Guillermo Báez, Minister of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, discussed the strategies and plan of action for the elimination of urban rabies and the progress that had been achieved in the Province's control program. He made a number of recommendations which, in his opinion, would be able to be carried out satisfactorily only if there were political support for them, and the necessary resources, coordination and continuity provided.

Dr. Hilary Koprowski, Director of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, discussed the most recent advancements in the area of rabies research and the state of the art in diagnosis and immunization. After describing the epidemiological situation of the disease in the Americas in the preceding decade, and the characteristics of the behavior of the rabies virus in the urban and wildlife cycle, Dr. Koprowski drew attention to the discovery of monoclonal antibodies, which made it possible to detect antigenic differences among strains of rabies virus. He also said that the recombinant DNA technology and the availability of solid support methods for chemical synthesis of virus antigens hold out the possibility that a potent, safe biological substance will be available in the near future, and that it will be readily produced and inexpensive.

Dr. Mário V. Fernandes, Coordinator of the Veterinary Public Health Program, PASB, gave an analysis of the Pan American Health Organization's plans for the elimination of urban rabies in the Americas by the year 1990. He reported on the status of the disease in the Americas and on activities conducted by PAHO. After a critical examination of the rabies control program in the Region, he listed the order of priorities of PAHO's technical cooperation activities to deal with rabies in the coming years.

During the course of the discussion that followed the various presentations on Item 10, the Representative of Paraguay asked Dr. Pereira Gomes and Dr. Báez what the geographical coverage of the rabies programs was in their respective countries, whether there was any coordination between the Ministries of Public Health and of Agriculture on these programs, and whether the same vaccine was used on humans attacked by dogs and by bats. Dr. Pereira Gomes replied that Brazil has a national commission to coordinate public health and agriculture activities. As regards the vaccine, he said that the Fuenzalida-Palacios vaccine was used both for humans and for dogs, but at different concentrations. Dr. Báez added that Argentina, because it is a federal country, does not have a national program; rather, each province is autonomous as regards health. He added that the vaccine used was also the suckling mouse brain vaccine.

In response to questions from the Representative of Haiti, Dr. Báez said that sociopolitical changes had not affected the continuity of the work. Rather, the adoption of new policies for the program in recent years had been favorable, and the participation of the veterinary doctor had increased at all levels. In response to Dr. George Baer, he explained that the house-to-house method of vaccination was more advisable during the attack phase, while the method of using fixed vaccination posts was more effective during the consolidation stage, when the community is more sensitized and more ready to accept the program.

The Representative of Jamaica asked Dr. Pereira Gomes what the Brazilian program's annual budget was, and the Representative of Haiti asked for information on post-vaccination accidents in Brazil. On the question of the budget, Dr. Pereira Gomes explained that the program had no specific budget, and that it operated through the co-participation of the Ministry of Health, the states and the municipalities, each of which contributed the necessary funds. He informed the Representative of Haiti that since the vaccination schedule, which had formerly been a 14-dose schedule, had been reduced, post-vaccination accidents had diminished.

The Representative of Colombia was interested to know what unknowns existed in the recombinant process. Dr. Koprowski replied that there were several, and that a specific reply at that time would be very difficult.

Closing the discussion, the President asked the Rapporteur to prepare a proposed resolution requesting PAHO and other international agencies to expand the scope of their cooperation on rabies, and urging PAHO to seek extrabudgetary funds to execute urban rabies eradication programs.

The sixth plenary session began with consideration of Item 9, Panel on Animal Health/Veterinary Public Health Participation in Primary Health Care. The President invited Dr. Luis Carlos Ochoa Ochoa, Area Director, Health Systems Infrastructure, PASB, to serve as Moderator.

He made a brief presentation of the basic concepts behind the goal of health for all by the year 2000, and its basic strategy, which is primary health care. He then asked Dr. Luis Jorge Osuna, Coordinator, Health Care Delivery Programs, PASB, to introduce the document entitled "Primary Health Care--The Key to the Goal of Health for All by the Year 2000". Dr. Osuna examined the goals and objectives for the Region of the Americas, the extension of coverage of the health services, community participation, expansion of the installed capacity via investment programs, an increment in the operational capacity of the health services, the information systems and the development of human resources, and the selection of technologies in the field of health and primary care.

Dr. Zdenek Matyas, Chief, Veterinary Public Health, Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO, introduced the paper "Elements of Primary Health Care and their Implications for Veterinary Public Health Programs." The paper examines the participation of the veterinary services in the eight essential elements of primary care, which is an integral part both of the countries' health systems and of their overall development, to which veterinary medicine makes an effective contribution.

After a short exchange of views on the subject between the Representatives of Colombia and Haiti, Dr. Primo Arambulo III, Regional Adviser on Veterinary Public Health, PASB, examined the application to animal health and veterinary public health programs of the principles of primary health care. He gave a short description of the concept and elements of primary health care, and indicated, with examples, the possible participation of the veterinary public health and animal health programs in the basic elements of primary health care.

This presentation was followed by that of Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, Deputy Chief of Agriculture, Guyana, on the participation of animal health and veterinary public health in primary health care. He made reference to some socioeconomic features of the countries of the Caribbean, to their common objectives in the field of animal health and veterinary public health, and to their participation in primary health care in order to improve the quality of life.

In conclusion, Dr. Emilio J. Gimeno, Director General of the National Animal Health Service of Argentina, presented the paper entitled "Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Policies and Strategies in the Americas for the Decade 1981-1990: Their Implications for the Plan of Action for Health for All by the Year 2000." He examined the status of animal production and veterinary public health in Latin America, and looked at trends. Certain areas of activity required development of the technology, and broad lines of action: human resources development; epidemiological surveillance and control of zoonoses and diseases having an economic impact; improving diagnostic methods; production of biological substances and drugs; and food safety and technology. His concluding remarks referred to the participation of veterinary medicine in environmental health programs, and to the need for financial resources and international cooperation.

The President requested the Rapporteur to read the pending proposed resolutions. Approval was given to the resolutions on support for the new perspectives of PAHO's program of technical cooperation in veterinary public health; the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center for 1984-1985; the proposed program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for 1984-1985; the IX Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; animal health policy and strategies in the Americas for the 1980's; financing of animal health and veterinary public health programs; equine encephalitis; intersectoral linkage; the X Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine; the diagnostic and reference center; and control programs.

It was agreed that the proposed resolutions on the establishment of a vaccine bank in support of zoonoses control and eradication in the Americas and on rabies would be redrafted and submitted for consideration at the next session on Thursday, 14 April, at 8:30 a.m., at which time the other pending resolutions would also be examined.

At the last plenary session, the proposed resolutions on integration of international animal health activities in the Americas and on the program for increasing special assistance to veterinary health and public health in the Caribbean were approved. The Representative of Paraguay withdrew the draft resolution he had presented on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

During the discussion of "Other Matters," the Observer for IICA took the floor to expand on the information regarding the assistance rendered to Haiti for the control of African swine fever. The Representative of Haiti complemented the data provided by the Observer for IICA and reported on the progress of the program to control that disease.

The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda inquired whether there was no duplication of activities between IICA and PAHO and what flow of funds was involved and what functions were being performed by each of the two agencies in extending support to both countries.

The Representative of Brazil commended his Haitian colleague for his remarks and reported to the meeting on control activities carried out in his country for the purpose of eradicating African swine fever.

The President submitted for consideration by the Meeting a proposed resolution on supply of vaccines for the control and eradication of zoonoses, which was approved with the amendments proposed by the Representatives of Colombia, Ecuador, and the United States of America. The proposed resolution on rabies was also approved.

RESOLUTION I

REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU
BY THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE PAN AMERICAN
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND ZOONOSIS CENTERS

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Cognizant of the importance of the reports presented by the Director's Scientific Advisory Committees for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers on the work done by those Centers in 1981 and 1982;

Considering that the work done by the two Centers in the areas of reference testing, technical services, information, training, and research is of much value for adding to what is known about foot-and-mouth disease and the zoonoses, and for improving methods for the diagnosis and control of these diseases; and

Aware that the operations carried out and scheduled by the two Centers have been evaluated by prominent members of the international scientific community,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept as of now the recommendations presented at this Meeting by the Scientific Advisory Committees for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Centers and to thank the two Committees for their most valuable assessment of the activities of these Centers in 1981 and 1982.

2. To emphasize that periodic evaluation of the operations of these Centers by scientists of established international standing guarantees that the countries will have from those Centers technical cooperation at the high level they require, and that the funds that the countries allocate for improving the operations of the Centers will be put to proper use.

(Approved at the fourth plenary session,
12 April 1983)

RESOLUTION II

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Government of Argentina to provide new quarters for CEPANZO; and

Considering that this purpose has been accomplished with the provision to CEPANZO of adequate facilities which will enable it to conduct its operations more effectively,

RESOLVES:

To thank the Government of Argentina for its unremitting concern, interest and efforts to provide an appropriate facility that would give CEPANZO new quarters of its own as from 1984 and enable the Center to respond better to the needs for technical cooperation of the countries.

(Approved at the fourth plenary session,
12 April 1983)

RESOLUTION III

ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW PERSPECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL
COOPERATION IN VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the profound implications of the new vision as to the mission of the Pan American Health Organization;

Bearing in mind the new restructuring and orientation of the Secretariat of the Organization in the light of its functions;

Aware of the indispensable role of animal health and veterinary public health in helping ensure that all the peoples of the Americas will be able to lead socially and economically productive lives by the year 2000; and

Having seen Document RIMSA3/24, "New Perspectives of the Veterinary Public Health Program of the Pan American Health Organization," and mindful of the general principles and objectives declared therein,

RESOLVES:

1. To express satisfaction with the prominence assigned by the Administration of PAHO to veterinary public health as an essential component in the development of the Organization's health programs.

2. To endorse the new perspectives of PAHO veterinary public health program as part of the doctrine and mission of PAHO as mandated by its Governing Bodies in the documents "Health for All by the Year 2000: Strategies" (Official Document 173) and "Plan of Action for the Implementation of Regional Strategies" (Official Document 179).

3. To recommend that the Governing Bodies of PAHO approve the objectives, elements, and basic strategies proposed in Document RIMSA3/24 in support of national programs of Member Governments.

4. To exhort the Member Governments to lend their utmost efforts to attainment of the program's proposed goals for 1990.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION IV

PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN ZOOSES CENTER
FOR 1984-1985

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having examined the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center (CEPANZO) for 1984-1985 (Document RIMSA3/7);

Cognizant of the fundamental role played by CEPANZO in the promotion, support and coordination of veterinary public health and animal health programs in the Hemisphere; and

Aware that the full development of CEPANZO's capabilities is essential for support to the consolidation of national programs, in the framework of regional strategies for zoonosis control and food protection,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Governing Bodies of PAHO that they approve the regular Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Zoonoses Center (CEPANZO) for 1984-1985 as presented in Document RIMSA3/7. In this respect, it is recommended that PAHO promptly negotiate and formulate with the Government of Argentina the subsidy to be provided by that Government within the budget of CEPANZO for 1984-1985.

2. To thank the Government of Argentina for its continued support to the financing of CEPANZO, and the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela for their special specific annual contributions to the upkeep and operation of the Center.

3. To urge the governments and the international technical and financial cooperation agencies to expand and intensify their operations, either with the Center directly or through specific national, regional or Hemisphere-wide projects, and that these operations be coordinated by PAHO.

4. To reiterate to the Governments of the Member Countries requiring additional CEPANZO cooperation that they provide funding for the execution of specific projects.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION V

PROPOSED PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE CENTER FOR 1984-1985

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that the countries in the area affected by foot-and-mouth disease in South America have defined their policies and strategies for control of the disease during the decade 1981-1990;

Considering that these measures will go far to maintaining and expanding the disease-free area and to protecting the countries of the Americas that are free of foot-and-mouth disease;

Mindful that the technical cooperation of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center will remain fundamental to the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Hemisphere;

Cognizant of the need for adequate funding if the Center is to function effectively;

Having taken note of the special contributions of the Government of Brazil for the restoration and maintenance of the Center's premises; and

Having examined the Center's Proposed Program and Budget for 1984-1985 (Document RIMSA3/6),

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Governing Bodies of PAHO that they approve the Proposed Program and Budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Center for 1984-1985 as presented in Document RIMSA3/6.

2. To thank the Government of Brazil for its continuing contribution toward the operating expenses of the Center's headquarters under the Agreement in effect since 1953 between the Government of Brazil and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and for that Government's regular maintenance contribution.

3. To give special thanks to the Government of Brazil for its special contribution of Cr\$8,779,115 during 1981-1982 and for the contributions for 1983 toward the improvement of the Center's physical facilities.

4. To request the Member Governments and other agencies to voluntarily finance the Center through extrabudgetary projects with a view to expansion of the diagnosis and epidemiological surveillance of other animal diseases similar in their clinical symptomatology to the vesicular diseases.

5. To urge PAHO to promote and facilitate the conclusion of agreements and execution of special projects for expanding the Center's activities in accordance with the specific needs of the Member Countries and the recommendations and resolutions of RIMSA and COSALFA, in the framework of the policies and strategies established by PAHO.

6. To urge PAHO to promote coordination, integration and mutual support with other technical and financial cooperation agencies in order to strengthen and expand the operations of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION VI

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

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the report of the IX Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 11 and 12 March 1982; and

Having taken cognizance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on Countries and Areas Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 8 to 10 March 1982, and in particular of the resolutions relating to policies and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America,

RESOLVES:

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

2. To urge the countries of South America to abide by and comply with the policies and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America approved by COSALFA IX and endorsed by RIMSA III.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION VII

ANIMAL HEALTH POLICY AND STRATEGIES OF THE AMERICAS
FOR THE DECADE 1981-1990

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen Document RIMSA3/8, "Veterinary Public Health and Animal Health Policy and Strategies in the Americas for the Decade 1981-1990," presented by the Secretariat of PAHO, which has already been reviewed by the countries and will be examined in detail at the meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health (COINSA) for the purpose of considering its implementation;

Aware of the importance of bringing animal health and veterinary public health work into line with the goal of health for all by the year 2000, and with primary health care in particular, in keeping with the aim of reducing the incidence of the zoonoses and foot-and-mouth disease so as to improve the production and quality of foods; and

Cognizant of the need to guide the efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture to these ends on the basis of intersectoral and interinstitutional articulation both at home and with the regional technical cooperation agencies,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank PAHO for the document "Veterinary Public Health and Animal Health Policy and Strategies in the Americas for the Decade 1981-1990," presented with the comments sent in by the countries.

2. To request the Member Governments to examine this document in detail at the meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health for the purpose of considering its implementation in the countries of the Americas.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION VIII

FINANCING OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND VETERINARY
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that different countries of the Region have received funding in the form of loans and financial contributions;

Considering that these resources have enabled the countries to develop and strengthen the infrastructure needed for the conduct of programs for the control of diseases of importance to the agricultural economy and human health;

Considering that work to control these diseases has generated improved epidemiological understanding which, as in the case of foot-and-mouth disease, has resulted in the characterization of the various ecosystems in the countries, thus making possible more effective measures, as have been financed by the IDB, to combat the diseases in their various aspects;

Considering the importance of preventing the gains already made from being disrupted by a lack of funding; and

Mindful of the need to keep certain animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, from imposing limitations on the development of animal production and the international trade in animals and animal products,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the international lending institutions to continue rendering financial support through loans and other mechanisms to animal health and veterinary public health programs.

2. To request PAHO to continue collaborating with requesting countries in the design of their projects for presentation to those lending institutions.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION IX

EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the periodic occurrence of equine encephalitis in various areas of the Continent and the fact that its spread poses for the various countries serious problems for public health and livestock production in the Region; and

Considering that the Pan American Zoonoses Center has been doing meritorious work in the performance of reporting and information functions but, for lack of physical infrastructure, has not thus far developed programs of research and diagnosis, and that this situation will improve considerably with the Center's imminent move to its new facilities, which will provide for appropriate and safe handling of the virus,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Director of PAHO that, taking into account the existing economic resources, the possibility be examined of organizing a specific program at the Pan American Zoonoses Center directed to supporting the countries in efforts to combat and control equine encephalitis by improving their services in the areas of epidemiology, diagnosis and research.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION X

INTERSECTORAL LINKAGE

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Mindful that, despite the efforts put forth by technical cooperation agencies, national and international (such as FAO, IICA, PAHO/WHO and others), animal diseases transmissible to man continue to have a negative impact on general health conditions and remain a significant cause of death in the Americas;

Aware that in some countries there is no information as to the true situation of zoonoses as regards their extent and their impact on public health and the livestock economy, and practical mechanisms for coordination between the national sectors responsible for public health and animal health are either nonexistent or ineffective;

Recognizing that the application of appropriate techniques and methods for the prevention and control of zoonoses does not suffice in the absence of an active, aware and continuing participation of the community; and

Bearing in mind that present economic circumstances necessitate the rational and full utilization of resources available in the countries for dealing with animal health problems and zoonoses with the aim of supporting the regional strategies for reaching the goal of health for all by the year 2000,

RESOLVES:

1. To request PAHO to develop, within its methodological research activities, a scheme of national institutions coordination that may be used as a model by the Member Countries.

2. To urge the Member Governments that have not yet done so to establish mechanisms for linkage among the national sectors involved in the fight against zoonoses, and to utilize the scheme requested in paragraph 1, adjusted to national realities, for the purpose of achieving the following general objectives:

- Institutionalizing the coordinated zoonoses control effort through the establishment of a national agriculture and health sectors commission.

- Enlisting active community participation in public health and animal health programs.
- Conducting research studies aimed at ascertaining the true situation of zoonoses and their social and economic impact.
- Recommending policies and strategies for the development of a national and comprehensive plan for the prevention, control and eradication of zoonoses.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XI

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

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having seen the report of the X Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 10 and 11 March 1983; and

Having taken cognizance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the Epidemiological Surveillance of Vesicular Diseases in South America, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 7 to 9 March 1983, and in particular the resolutions approving new By-Laws of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the resolutions of the X Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and to exhort the South American countries concerned to abide by and comply with those resolutions.

2. To urge the member countries of COSALFA to obtain from their Ministries of Foreign Affairs the recognition of COSALFA and of its Organic By-Laws.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XII

OIL-ADJUVANTED FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Bearing in mind the high comparative antigenic value of the oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine developed by the Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory and subsequently produced and applied with excellent results by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in collaboration with the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay;

Noting that the technology for the production of that vaccine developed by the Center, and made available to the countries with its advisory assistance, is being incorporated by the public sector, and gradually by the private sector; and

Considering that oil-adjuvanted vaccine currently offers an element of great importance for the effectiveness of the programs to immunize South America's cattle population against foot-and-mouth disease and that the full participation of vaccine production laboratories in the private sector is indispensable,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Governments of the South American countries affected by foot-and-mouth disease that they make every possible effort to encourage and support the introduction of oil-adjuvanted vaccine in programs for the control and eradication of the disease.

2. To request the Pan American Health Organization to continue and strengthen the activities of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center directed to the transfer of technology for the production and application of oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XIII

DIAGNOSTIC AND REFERENCE CENTER

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Having examined the program of the Pan American Zoonoses Center (Document RIMSA3/7);

Considering that identifying the species of the parasite which is the causative agent of hydatidosis is important for the epizootiology of the disease and for actions to control and prevent it;

Considering the current stage of the hydatidosis situation assessment now going forward in several American countries;

Recognizing the need for a unified orientation and standardization of criteria for the diagnosis and production of antigens;

Recognizing the work being done in South American countries by the Pan American Zoonoses Center; and

Considering the need to keep the agencies involved in hydatidosis control informed with respect to the species being encountered in the field and to gain a better knowledge of how the disease is evolving,

RESOLVES:

To urge that the Pan American Zoonoses Center, in its capacity as a diagnostic and reference laboratory, be strengthened with respect to human and animal hydatidosis.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XIV

CONTROL PROGRAMS

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering the completion of Stage I of the Hydatidosis Situation Assessment in Southern Brazil, which revealed the presence of other parasites that are the causative agents of diseases common to man and animals;

Considering the interest in developing a Parasitic Zoonoses Control Program following the identification of parasitoses at the time of the slaughtering of animals; and

Recognizing the need for a guide for the control of parasitic zoonoses,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Pan American Health Organization:
 - Prepare an orientation guidebook for the control of parasitic zoonoses;
 - That the guide envisage the delineation of regional control policies and strategies, giving consideration to the ecological systems and to the technical and practical possibilities for implementation.
2. To request that a situation analysis be carried out covering the socioeconomic aspects for the purpose of identifying those parasitic zoonoses having priority importance in the Americas, and that the performance of the analysis and prioritization be included among the activities for the 1986-1987 biennium.

(Approved at the sixth plenary session,
13 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XV

INTEGRATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN THE AMERICAS

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that many animal health matters in the Americas are problems of regional interest that merit the joint attention of the countries;

Considering that this attention involves the exchange of technical and scientific knowledge and of experience and information; application of common basic standards and procedures, harmonization of objectives, coordination of activities, and mutual aid in terms of human, physical and financial resources;

Considering that bilateral aid among countries is a practical way of attacking the problem but that the participation of all, with equal rights and responsibilities, is the only way of arriving at integrated solutions;

Considering that the way to solutions is sought through international organizations established by the countries and that, while there is no specific agency for animal health, FAO, PAHO and IICA stand out in this field in the Americas;

Considering that, while no formal commitment exists, with the passage of time these organizations have been orienting their activities towards different areas and problems with the aim of making their actions complementary;

Considering, that nevertheless, for want of adequate coordination, this division is only relative--since common, interrelated or interdependent segments exist--a circumstance which is at times reflected in duplications of efforts, misunderstandings, confusion, and low productivity in the use of resources; and

Considering that, aware of this fact, the countries have been concerned, particularly in the last few years, with bringing about a greater degree of cooperation among the international organizations in the area of animal health and veterinary public health, a concern reflected in a number of resolutions approved at recent meetings of the Governing Bodies of the organizations involved,

RESOLVES:

1. To request PAHO to expedite the implementation of those resolutions and give them real meaning, to study the possibility of planning the animal health activities of international organizations in the Americas within an integrated program for the Region, taking into consideration the IOE, subregional agencies such as OIRSA and the Cartagena Agreement, and bilateral agreements between countries.

2. To recommend that action begin with a meeting of the chief veterinary officers of international organizations, to be convened principally for the purpose of defining the respective areas of action, with the subsequent preparation of a document to be considered by the governing bodies of the international organizations and submitted to the Member Countries.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
14 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XVI

PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL AND INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN VETERINARY AND
PUBLIC HEALTH TO THE CARIBBEAN

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Recognizing the invaluable work of collaboration and cooperation of PAHO/WHO towards the promotion of animal and public health in the Hemisphere; and

Considering that there are special and urgent problems in animal and public health in the Caribbean which deserve increased attention,

RESOLVES:

1. To record its full support and appreciation for the work of PAHO/WHO in fostering and promoting animal and public health in the Hemisphere and in particular for the assistance which the territories in the Caribbean have so received.

2. To urge that PAHO/WHO give recognition to the urgent needs of the Caribbean as a region.

3. To recommend that PAHO/WHO representatives give special consideration to the Caribbean concerns expressed at this Meeting, and that PAHO/WHO increase, expand and accelerate its levels of assistance to the area of the Caribbean.

4. To recommend that PAHO/WHO consider increasing its assistance to these countries by, among other things, the control and eradication of the zoonoses, particularly in the areas of training, the supply of biologicals and laboratory support.

5. To request that PAHO/WHO use its best endeavors to mobilize financial and technical assistance in support of the programs of special assistance to the Caribbean countries.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
14 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XVII

SUPPLY OF VACCINES FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ZOONOSSES

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that there is a shortage of vaccines for the control of zoonoses and that, in addition, there are difficulties in acquiring them, for reasons relating to the supply, quality and prices of vaccines;

Considering that PAHO at present administers a fund for the acquisition of vaccines for human use; and

Considering that during the present meeting various countries have requested PAHO to establish a vaccine bank and others have offered support for the project to create such a bank,

RESOLVES:

To request PAHO:

1. To perform a feasibility study on establishing a vaccine bank for use in zoonoses control and eradication.
2. To coordinate the participation of countries and international organizations that may contribute to its establishment, through PAHO.
3. To determine requirements for vaccines and program their procurement, through PAHO.
4. To serve as reference agency for the control of laboratories and vaccines, in order to provide the countries acquiring them with assurances as to their safety, potency and sterility.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
14 April 1983)

RESOLUTION XVIII

RABIES

THE III INTER-AMERICAN MEETING,

Considering that rabies is an important public health problem in most of the countries in the Hemisphere;

Considering that Resolution XVII of the VII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control (RICAZ VII), held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 17 to 20 April 1974, and Resolution VIII of the I Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA I), held in Washington, D.C., from 14 to 17 April 1980, both recommend the epidemiological surveillance and the control and eradication of rabies;

Considering that the incidence of rabies in domestic animal species of economic importance impairs the development of animal production and inflicts economic losses on several countries in the Americas;

Considering that rabies transmitted by vampire bats and other wildlife poses an economic and public health problem in some countries of the Region;

Considering that the fund of experience built up in the Region, with the available technology, has made possible the effective control of rabies in some countries and the eradication of urban rabies in several cities in the Americas;

Mindful that the major constraints lie in the deficiency of the technical and administrative infrastructure, a lack of programs, and inadequate intersectoral collaboration and coordination; and

Considering the need to coordinate the national programs at the regional level and to evaluate their progress periodically,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate Resolution XVII of the VII Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control, and Resolution VIII of the I Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health on the epidemiological surveillance and control of rabies.

2. To recommend that the countries design, in collaboration with PAHO, effective programs to control urban rabies in the principal cities of the Region, and reduction of its incidence in the species of economic importance, by the end of the present decade.

3. To urge the countries to establish or strengthen zoonosis and veterinary public health units in their Ministries of Public Health and Agriculture, and to strengthen the collaboration among the different sectors that are in a position to carry out effective programs of rabies control.

4. To recommend that the countries design or strengthen programs for the control of rabies transmitted by vampire bats and other wildlife in keeping with the epidemiological conditions of each country.

5. To request PAHO to coordinate the regional program, guide its technical cooperation, and seek extrabudgetary funds in order to attain the goals set for the specific programs of control and eradication of urban rabies in the individual countries.

6. To request PAHO to study the possibility of holding, every two years, a seminar for the directors of national rabies control programs.

(Approved at the seventh plenary session,
14 April 1983)

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 fourteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and eighty three. 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.

Hamilton Green
President of the Meeting
Representative of Guyana

Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Secretary ex officio of the Meeting
Director of the
Pan American Sanitary Bureau