



COMISION SUDAMERICANA PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA FIEBRE AFTOSA

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

XII REGULAR MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 21-22, 1985

FINAL REPORT

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

## XII REGULAR MEETING

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### FINAL REPORT

The XII Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held on March 21 & 22, 1985, at the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Observers were also present from those countries, as well as from the United States of America, Suriname, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Commission of the European Communities (CEE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) (Appendix I).

In accordance with COSALFA by laws, Dr. Celso Grimaldos Durán, the Representative from Bolivia, chaired the Meeting. After cordially welcoming the representatives and observers from the countries and international agencies, he underscored the Meeting's importance for a discussion of the matters of interest that would enable the countries to utilize more rationally their programs' scant resources. He hoped that good conclusions would be reached at the end of the Meeting, for the good progress of the programs.

Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Director of the PAFMDC, acted as Secretary ex officio of COSALFA.

The agenda of the Meeting based on recommendations passed at the XI COSALFA Meeting, was proposed by the Secretary and approved without changes (Appendix II).

#### A. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY EX OFFICIO

The COSALFA Secretary ex officio presented a report on the action carried out by the Secretariat since the XI Regular Meeting:

- Compliance with the resolutions passed at COSALFA XI;
- Other matters

1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT COSALFA XI

1.1 Resolution I - Institutionalization of COSALFA at the Subregional Level

After an explanation of COSALFA's ties with PAHO and that the COSALFA Member Countries would not be obligated to allocate additional funding, the protocol received a favorable opinion from the Department of American Regional Agencies of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as from the Legal Affairs Division. The protocol was forwarded to the Division of International Acts.

It was made known at a recent interview with the Secretary ex officio that the aforesaid Division has drafted a resolution agreeing with the institutionalization of COSALFA. The resolution will receive the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. The Economic Department will be in charge of circulating the resolution among the COSALFA Member Countries for their signature approving the institutionalization.

1.2 Resolution II - Participation of International Funding Agencies in the Development of Animal Production and Health Programs

In 1984 the negotiations related to national animal health projects enjoyed the technical support of the Pan-American Health Organization through the PAFMDC and the Veterinary Public Health Program (HPV) in Washington. Among the projects are the drafting of the Argentine Animal Health Plan (PLANARSA); the revision of the Project for the Second Stage of the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rabies and Brucellosis Control Program (SENARB) in Bolivia; request by the SENARB authorities for PAHO support in Bolivia's negotiations for funding from the IDB; participation of the PAFMDC members in the FAO/World Bank mission that analyzed the Brazilian Animal Health Project; preparation of the Project of the Second Stage of the FMD Control Program in Ecuador and the request by the country's new authorities that PAFMDC technical personnel update the document and cooperate in an eventual loan request; and, likewise, technical cooperation with Venezuela in the plan for construction of a vaccine-production plant that has IDB funding.

1.3 Resolution III - Research in the Coverage of FMD Vaccine Strains

During 1984 the CEE demonstrated interest in a joint evaluation, with the Argentine animal health authorities, of the situation of virus strain C Argentina/84. The PAFMDC participated in all the discussions and planning meetings dealing with this matter. The C Argentina/84 strain and the homologous hyperimmune serum were sent to the World Reference Laboratory for characterization.

1.4 Resolution IV - Participation of the Secretary ex officio in International Foot-and-Mouth Disease Meetings

The Secretary ex officio or PAFMDC consultants representing him participated in the following international events during 1984:

- IICA and FAO meetings in Santiago (Chile) and Lima (Peru), respectively;
- Annual Meeting of the American Animal Health Association, USA;
- 13th Congress on Bovine Diseases, in Durban, South Africa;
- 1st International Conference on Vesicular Stomatitis, Mexico;
- Congress on Viral Diseases in Animals, Melbourne, Australia;
- Standing Technical Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Brescia, Italy.

1.5 Resolution V - Document entitled "Bilateral Animal Health Agreements between Countries of South America"

The document is currently being drafted. Contributions have been received from: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. Peru and Ecuador have not yet responded.

The final draft is available to the Delegates for their evaluation and comments. The absence of remarks or comments will imply agreement with the proposed text.

The Secretary ex officio noted with satisfaction the progress attained by the Three-Country Agreement among Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, with respect to the start of actions intended to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) along the common borders. Also note worthy are the regional characterization studies conducted on the borders between Colombia and Ecuador and Colombia and Venezuela, and the proposals for similar characterization studies involving the Brazil-Paraguay border area. Finally, the Secretary congratulated the personnel responsible for the Agreement between Argentina and Chile for their joint effort to prevent the reentry of FMD into Chile.

1.6 Resolution VI - Program for Training in the Production, Control and Application of Oil-Adjuvanted FMD Vaccine

In order to continue assistance in training for the production, control and application of oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine, the PAFMDC utilized



its regular funding to meet the requests received from the countries in 1984, given the unavailability of extrabudgetary resources from the Animal Health Training Program for Latin America (PROASA).

Produced with support from PROASA, the Manual on Production and Control of Oil-Adjuvanted FMD Vaccine will be ready soon.

1.7 Resolution VII - International Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Action for FMD Eradication

The International Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Action for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication was held at the PAFMDC in Rio de Janeiro on March 18-20, 1984. The assessment of the conclusions reached at the Seminar is the subject of a specific item on the agenda of this XII Regular Meeting of COSALFA.

Regarding the recommendations of the Seminar on the Evaluation of the Use of Oil-Adjuvanted Vaccine, which were approved by COSALFA XI in this Resolution VII, the following accomplishments were made:

a) - Recommendation I - Preparation of a Document on Methodology for Characterization of Production Forms and Ecosystems

The PAFMDC in 1984 continued an existing intensive program of training and direct assistance in the matter, through its participation in courses and seminars and through cooperation with national personnel in the development of studies for the characterization of the forms of FMD production and ecosystems. The document is being drafted.

b) - Recommendation II - Updating the Epidemiological Surveillance Systems to the New Strategies

Argentina, Chile and Venezuela are currently engaged in a complete restructuring of their surveillance systems in order to implement the new strategies.

c) - Recommendation III - Extension of the Methodology for Characterization of Forms of Production

The project drafted by Ecuador for the Second Stage of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Program includes an attempt to apply the characterization methodology to brucellosis and classic swine fever ecosystems. No significant changes have occurred in the other countries.

d) - Recommendation IV - Development of Epidemiological Data Banks

Argentina has begun to organize epidemiological information with electronic processing support. It is hoped that the system will be fully functional in 1985.

e) - Recommendations V, VI, VII and VIII

These four recommendations about training activities were partially met by the PROASA Project courses held in 1984. During 1985 compliance will continue by means of specific courses organized by the PAFMDC/PAHO and action recommended by the Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Action for FMD Eradication, held on the three days preceding this COSALFA Meeting.

f) - Recommendation IX - Strategies and Technical Instruments for Application of the Strategies

The projects in Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador contemplate the points enumerated in this Recommendation. The aspects are also undertaken in the three-country border plan involving Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

g) - Recommendation X - Vaccine Production and Control

An official and a private laboratory in Brazil have registered production of oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine providing six months of immunity. Vaccine has been produced for the market, most of it being utilized in Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Roraima, the Federal District and Rio de Janeiro.

In Colombia, the Colombian Veterinary Products Company Inc. (VECOL) is actively engaged in developing an oil-adjuvanted vaccine. No product has yet been made available to the market.

In Argentina, one private laboratory is currently producing vaccine authorized for four months of immunity. Regarding control standards, a joint meeting was recently held between the Official Service and the Argentina Vaccine Industry, with PAFMDC/PAHO participation. The purpose of the meeting was to set up a production and control profile for oil-adjuvanted vaccine in that country. A similar situation exists in Paraguay.

There were no activities worthy of mentioning in the other countries of the continent.

2. OTHER MATTERS

a) - Appearance of Antigenic Variants

In recent years we have noticed with concern the appearance of severe FMD epidemics caused by antigenic variants of the virus.

Argentina was affected in 1981 by a variant of A virus, and again in 1984 by a variant, virus type C Argentina/84. More recently there was an outbreak of A virus in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. Characterization of the virus is underway.

In almost all those cases it was not possible to restrict the epidemics to their source, and replacing the vaccine strains took considerable time.

Given the importance of the matter, it is suggested that the Commission devote special attention to this problem in the "Other Matters" section of this Meeting's agenda.

b) - Operating Budgets of the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs

It is a well-known fact that the Latin American countries have faced severe economic and financial crises during the past few years. In most of the countries, the crises have resulted in a sharp cutback in public spending. It has been noted with concern that the cutbacks have seriously affected the efficacy of the field work of various FMD control programs. Although the problem is admittedly a difficult one to solve, it is nevertheless submitted to the evaluation of the plenary meeting for discussion under "Other Matters".

c) - Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Peru

Following the successful program of eradicating an endemic outbreak of FMD in San Martín province, Peru reported no cases of the disease since October, 1983. But several herds were recently reported affected by virus type A in the provinces of Lima and San Martín. Thoses cases were, however, reported some 2 to 3 months after their occurrence. The prevention system, and especially the epidemiological surveillance system, did not operate within the standards required to maintain the conditions favorable for controlling the disease and achieving the goal of eradication.

d) - CEE Mission to the Plata Basin Countries

Particularly concerned about the C Argentina/84 virus situation in Argentina, an CEE veterinary inspection mission composed of Drs. Watson, Leunen and Nidelberger recently visited that country as well as Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The group visited the PAFMDC and discussed the existing situation with our personnel. One of our specialists accompanied the mission during the visit to Argentina. The coherence and seriousness of the information received enabled the group to have a better awareness of the epidemiological situation and of the characteristics of the C Argentina/84 strain that caused the FMD epidemic in Argentina. The mission also assessed the situation in the bordering countries it visited.

e) - Diagnosis of Viral Diseases

We are concerned by the fact that the countries lack a reference laboratory for the diagnosis of animal viral diseases having the required conditions of standardization and biological safety. Not only does this situation hinder adequate differentiation of clinical cases similar to vesicular diseases, but it also impedes and interferes in intra- and inter-regional trade in animals and animal products, keeps our countries subject to the creation of new sanitary barriers and hampers adequate prevention of the introduction of exotic viral agents.

The PAFMDC's attempts to confront this situation with support from France has not been successful. Combined action by the countries is necessary to strengthen the viral diseases diagnosis sector and increase the availability of reference reagents and suitable methodology.

f) - Outbreak of FMD in the Chocó Virus-free Area

An outbreak of FMD, caused by virus type O, was reported in a pig in Bahia Solano, Chocó, Colombia, on October 26, 1984. Quick action included the slaughter of three bovines and eight pigs, and the use of four sentinel pigs. The quarantine was lifted on January 10, 1985, and Area I of the ICA-USDA Cooperative Program was again declared free of FMD virus.

A detailed report on the event, prepared by the ICA-USDA Program, is available to the Delegates.

g) - Intra- and Inter-regional Trade in Animals and Products

Due to the type and number of consultations and problems arising with respect to trade in animals and their products, a specific item in this regard has been included on this Meeting's agenda. The item includes: the negotiation of agreements for the exportation of semen, involving Brazil and the USA; the problems deriving from the presence of other infectious agents in animals for exportation; the importance and validity of sanitary certificates for exportation of animals; and the potential opportunities in the intraregional market for animals and animal products pending on the creation of FMD-free areas.

h) - Joint Meeting with the Standing Technical Committee of the European Commission for the Control of FMD

In line with a proposal made at COSALFA XI, the PAHO Director has approved the holding of a joint meeting of PAFMDC specialists and the Standing Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (ECCFMD). The meeting is scheduled for October. Each country will send one representative having responsibility for vesicular disease laboratory activities. The meeting will discuss: epidemiology, vaccine control and virus diagnosis.

i) - Miscellaneous Documents

The Secretary has put the following documents at the disposal of the COSALFA Delegates:

1. Report of the Study on Physical Losses Caused by Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Joint project involving the Brazilian Government, the IDB and the PAHO/PAFMDC. The document is currently available only in Portuguese. The English and Spanish editions are being printed.
2. Guidebook to Mobilization of External Financial Resources for the Health Sector in the Region of the Americas.
3. Development of Veterinary Public Health Programs: Objectives and Strategies.
4. PAHO/IDB Agreement on Non-Refundable Technical Cooperation for Animal Health Programs.

The following comments were made upon discussion of the Report:

The Representative from Venezuela stated that, as a followup to the recommendations made at last year's Seminar, his country conducted a review and update of the epidemiological surveillance and information system. He also inquired about the funding available through the PAHO/IDB Non-Refundable Technical Cooperation Agreement.

The HPV/PAHO Coordinator stated that the project, which amounts to approximately half a million dollars, is oriented toward new health fields.

The Representative from Peru explained that the delay in initiating the steps to control the focus of FMD in his country was due to the lack of a notification by the cattleman involved. But once the outbreak

was known, the corresponding measures were applied. The Secretary stressed that the information had been received two months after the fact. Such a delay affects the system's reliability, given its the necessity to inform promptly both the neighboring countries and the international organizations. Likewise, given the FMD situation in Peru, the efficient and timely operation of the information system is indispensable for attainment of the goals of eradication.

The HPV/PAHO Coordinator commented that, similar to COSALFA, a Commission of Veterinary Inspection of Meat from the Plata Basin (CINVECC) had been set up. Its activities will be guaranteed through an innovative fund supported by the countries involved.

The Secretary explained the international concern caused by a report from Bolivia about the supposed presence there of an outbreak caused by a FMD virus considered exotic to South America. Subsequent cooperative action between the PAFMDC and SENARB revealed that an information error had been made, and that the active strain was a type of FMD virus already existing in South America.

The Chairman submitted the Secretary's Report to the Meeting for consideration. It was unanimously approved.

B. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION AND SITUATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AMERICA, 1984

Two PAFMDC consultants presented a summary of the document "Situation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs, South America, 1984". The document was compiled from the reports provided by the COSALFA Member Countries and was distributed to the representatives for their analysis and approval.

Foot-and-mouth disease on the continent has shown a declining trend since the early 1970's when the development and execution of the programs began. A very favorable level of control has been attained in the last three years as both the affected herds rate and the morbidity rate have stabilized. However, on the other hand, in the last five-year period the drop in positive diagnoses of FMD has been offset by increased vesicular stomatitis diagnoses.

In comparison with 1983, there was recorded a higher frequency of vesicular disease in Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. In Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay the upswing was due to increased FMD frequency, while vesicular stomatitis increased in Peru. It is not clear which disease caused the increase noted in Venezuela.

The frequency of vesicular diseases in Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia showed little change from 1983. In the last country changes were noticed in the frequency of the types of virus, both foot-and-mouth and vesicular stomatitis diseases. Ecuador is the only country where a downtrend was observed.

In 1983-1984 there was an increase in the diagnoses of type C FMD virus (67%), New Jersey vesicular stomatitis virus (14%) and Indiana vesicular stomatitis virus (13%). FMD viruses type O and A declined, 40% and 10%, respectively.

The programs' coverage data are similar to those of the preceding year. Geographic coverage was 59% because it excludes the extensive Amazon regions of Brazil and Colombia and covers only two departments in Bolivia. The coverage of cattle herds was 85% (3.6 million) and 84% (188.5 million) of the cattle population.

There was a total of 2104 operational units.

The vaccination coverage reached 46% (1.6 million) of the herds and 69% (127.8 million) of the cattle; in overall terms this represented a decline of 8% and 6%, respectively. The highest coverage figures were attained by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

491 million doses of FMD vaccine were submitted to official controls; 438.7 million were approved (88%). 440.3 million doses were available to the vaccination programs, a 12% increase in relation to 1983.

Chile again demonstrated its determination to remain free of FMD as it put into action all the activities required to eliminate the outbreak occurring in the Andes region bordering Argentina. 7719 animals were eliminated in that effort. Colombia likewise eradicated a focus of FMD in an isolated sector of the virus-free area. That area is protected by two areas having a population of approximately one million bovines and a vaccination coverage exceeding 90%.

Of significant importance is the situation noted in Uruguay and the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. The area includes some 400,000 farms with approximately 24 million cattle and 33 million sheep. Systematic action by the control programs has continually reduced the number of foci. This result is being taken as the basis for carrying out a FMD eradication program in the Plata Basin including Mesopotamia in Argentina.

With respect to the border agreements between South American countries, it was reported that 1984 saw substantial activity. All the meetings of the joint commissions that evaluate the accomplishments of the planned activities were held. A detailed report has been handed to the COSALFA Delegates.

The report on the Situation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs, South America, 1984, includes data on morbidity in other species, resources utilized by the programs, and commercialization of animals, products and byproducts.

The following comments and remarks were made in the discussion of the report:

The Brazilian Representative asked whether the PAFMDC had an analysis that might explain the stabilized situation, at low levels, of FMD occurrence observed during the past few years.

A PAFMDC consultant explained that the main factors which have contributed to this situation are the improved quality of the vaccines, the programs' comprehensive and systematic efforts, and the epidemiological-based criteria, principally for the control of mobilization of animals coming from endemic areas. Nevertheless, this situation should not lead one to believe that a final solution to the problem has been found, inasmuch as the epidemic outbreaks observed still indicate reason for concern and the need to be on the alert.

A Vaccine-Control consultant from the PAFMDC spoke of the progress made in quality control of FMD vaccine. As an example he mentioned that the mean of the 50% bovine protective dose (BPD<sub>50</sub>) has progressively increased in Argentina. The current mean is 7 BPD<sub>50</sub>.

The IICA Representative pointed out that the results achieved indicate a greater efficiency by the programs, in view of the fact that their resources have been reduced.

The Uruguayan Representative explained that the vaccination coverage percentages in Uruguay are affected by the figures referring to the total number of rural properties, which include farms engaged in crop production.

The Representative from Venezuela explained that the human and financial resources are not devoted exclusively to the FMD program, but rather to all aspects of animal health.

C. EVALUATION OF THE CONTINENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF VESICULAR DISEASES

A consultant from the PAFMDC submitted a summary of the evaluation of the epidemiological surveillance and information system, which provides an on-going monitoring of the behavior of vesicular diseases in South America, Central America, Panama and Mexico. The report is included in



the document on the "Situation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs, South America, 1984".

The report includes an analysis of the levels of reception and publication of the weekly and monthly reports sent in by the countries, and the evolution of the system in recent years. Generally speaking, the reporting system functioned satisfactorily. But the countries should forward the monthly reports more promptly.

It was mentioned that during 1984 numerous warnings were sent to several of the region's countries, alerting them to the presence of vesicular outbreaks in border areas of neighboring countries or when vesicular cases were detected in new areas. That information was also routed to international agencies like: OIE, OIRSA, FAO, IICA, CEE Veterinary Services, and the World Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, England.

This year the report includes an analysis of the surveillance activities by means of laboratory confirmation, which contains the percentage of samples collected from affected herds and the percentage of samples diagnosed.

The report stressed the need to improve the monthly communication of the active virus subtypes, which is information required for informing the other Member Countries of COSALFA, international agencies and other interested countries.

Beginning in 1984, the continental information system includes weekly telegraphic communications to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, where vesicular stomatitis is endemic.

A PAFMDC consultant remarked that a level of 50% for samples collected is considered adequate, but that the low percentage of samples diagnosed is a cause for concern. A possible reason may be the presence of other diseases similar to vesicular diseases.

The CEE Representative expressed his appreciation for the invitation to participate in the COSALFA Meeting, and remarked that the timely transmittal of information is fundamental if meat exportation is to run smoothly. He mentioned previous situations when meat imports to the CEE risked being suspended due to the delays in information about the presence of new foot-and-mouth disease virus strains. In the case of the C Argentina/84 virus in Argentina, for example, a mission had to visit that country to obtain the necessary information. He stressed that the PAFMDC has set up and operates a good processing system, but that the countries most necessarily feed in the data. Finally, he informed the Meeting that the CEE, by official letter to the Countries' embassies, is requesting the prompt transmission of information on the appearance of new virus strains.

The IICA Representative emphasized the importance of the differential diagnosis of vesicular diseases with other diseases that produce similar symptoms.

The Representative from Paraguay expressed his concern about the doubts arising with regard to the information sent in by the countries, and suggested that the most suitable mechanism is to channel the reports through the PAFMDC.

The Representative from Venezuela remarked that the low percentage of diagnosis in his country is due to the fact that the single diagnostic laboratory is located far from the cattle regions. Another reason was the reduction in program funding.

The Representative from Ecuador said that other diseases having symptoms similar to vesicular diseases are suspected to exist in his country. An example would be infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).

The Representative from Uruguay said that because of the low number of outbreaks in his country, all of the sites are visited and the diagnosis is conducted as quickly as possible. But they never reject the possibility of the presence of FMD until diagnosis has confirmed another disease.

The reports were unanimously approved.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY AND STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AMERICA IN THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1981-1990

A consultant from the PAFMDC presented a summary of the report prepared by the Center (Appendix III).

He emphasized that during the year the official services actively worked to restructure the national control plans. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador have submitted their project documents for approval by the national authorities. Funding has also been requested.

It was emphasized that a defined action in the areas considered critical in the document "Policy and Strategies for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America in the Ten-year Period 1981-1990" will lead to accomplishment of the proposed control and eradication goals.

Several representatives made comments for inclusion in the document.

E. SANITARY STANDARDS FOR INTRAREGIONAL TRADE IN ANIMALS AND SEMEN

The Secretary informed that this topic was included because of several situations that took place during 1984, related to trade in bovines and semen. The major reasons were: the slaughter in Argentina of 39 buffalos imported from Brazil, due to positive reactions to blue tongue; exportation of buffalos from Brazil to Peru; exportation of camelidae from Chile to the USA; and the interest shown by Costa Rica and the USA in importing semen from Brazil. He also pointed out that the COSALFA Meeting permits technical analysis of those situations that affect the interests of the Region.

The Representative from Ecuador said that in 1981 his country imported bovines from Uruguay, and at the quarantine station some healthy carriers of FMD virus type A were detected. He also indicated that diseases like IBR may also have been imported, and that it is not possible to undertake all the examinations at the quarantine station because its laboratory is not equipped with all the required equipment and material. He explained that the detected carrier cattle, imported from Uruguay, caused no problems to cattle-raising in Ecuador.

The Representative from Uruguay said that his country, given its export potential, has endeavored to visit the interested importing countries in order to gain first-hand awareness of the required animal-health regulations and standards. He also mentioned that import requirements should be realistic in order not to interfere with trade among countries.

The Representative from Peru said that his country has a program to develop milkshed areas. Dairy cattle have been imported from Chile and there is interest in importing cattle from Argentina. The main requirement is that both the herds and the imported animals be free from tuberculosis and brucellosis. He also asked for more information on the exportation of camelidae to the USA.

The Representative from Chile said that two shipments were made. For the first shipment of 200 alpacas and llamas, Chile's status as a foot-and-mouth disease-free nation was recognized by the USA. The required standards were therefore quarantine and VIA tests, plus serum neutralization tests, for FMD, and negative reaction to brucellosis, tuberculosis, *Tripanosoma vivax*, blue tongue and vesicular stomatitis. The tests for *Tripanosoma vivax* were conducted in the USA. It was planned that the animals would enter quarantine upon arriving in the USA, and new lab exams would be conducted.

Due to the outbreak of FMD on the border with Argentina, the second shipment of 300 animals required the presence of veterinarians from the USA. A quarantine and tests similar to those administered for the first shipment were likewise conducted.

He also mentioned that Chile is exporting breeding dairy cattle to Colombia and Peru. This has encouraged the cattlemen to participate actively in the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programs.

The Argentine Representative remarked that his country will not export until it is able to meet the requirements of the interested countries. He also referred to the case of the buffalos imported from Brazil and which had to be sacrificed after detection of reactions positive to blue tongue. He stressed that the countries must standardize tests and reagents.

The Brazilian Representative commented that trade should follow previously established technical conditions, and that the veterinary services must have credibility. He acknowledged that in some cases local visits and tests conducted at the place of origin of the animals, with participation of veterinarians from the importing country, could be necessary.

The Director of the PAFMDC expressed the opinion that --with respect to countries having different animal health and sanitary conditions-- the visit of veterinarians from the importing country still does not preclude the need for new tests in the importing country.

The Representative from Paraguay indicated that his country has definite regulations and standards regarding importation of animals, and that the bilateral animal-health agreements have facilitated the agreements and compliance with the import requirements.

The Representative from Venezuela said that a document concerning quarantine standards had been drafted and distributed to the veterinarians in his country and to the veterinary services in several countries. He mentioned that Venezuela has had experience importing cattle from countries where virus type C is present (Brazil and Spain); the quarantine station and a protocol of procedures prepared with PAFMDC/PAHO assistance have been utilized. He also mentioned that the possibility of importing semen from Brazil is under study, and that the pertinent protocol is being prepared. He inquired about the situation of fighting bull imports from Spain to Ecuador.

The Ecuatorian Representative said that fighting bulls are no longer imported because Ecuador has developed its own stock.

The Brazilian Representative mentioned that a protocol for exporting semen to the USA already exists.

The Representative from Colombia said that his country has a quarantine station through which a significant number of cattle have been imported from Brazil, Spain and France. A protocol for importation of semen from Brazil also exists. This came about because of need to

discourage contrabanding of semen. He also referred to the trade guidebook and the sanitary standards of the Andean Pact countries.

The Bolivian Representative mentioned that Bolivia has legislation governing animal importation, but it is difficult to enforce because of the lack of a sufficient infrastructure.

The Coordinator from the HPV/PAHO presented information about the Interamerican Food Conference to be held August 5-9, 1986, under the auspices of the PAHO, FAO, IICA, and the US Food and Drug Administration. The Conference will discuss the commercialization of animals and products of animal origin. The meeting will bring together representatives from the public- and animal-health sectors, agriculture, trade and industry. He promised to forward, through the PAFMDC, the names of the delegates, so that the veterinary services can route information. The meeting should produce proposals for continental policies on the matter.

A consultant from the PAFMDC underscored the importance of creating virus-free areas, to facilitate compliance with the requirements regarding acute type diseases, and of virus-free farms for chronic type diseases. Regarding blue tongue, he remarked on the lack of information on that disease in the Region's countries and mentioned that Australia had mapped the areas where each serotype existed and the arthropod vectors. The acting serotypes are not pathogenic, but the animals are sacrificed because of the possible risks of pathogenic serotypes appearing through processes of re-combination with other serotypes. That country has a reference laboratory which provided blue tongue antigen to the Center for comparison purposes.

The IICA Representative pointed out the importance of trade in embryos of farm animals, a topic discussed at the Meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health (COINSA) held in Mexico in 1983. The topic will be discussed again at the Meeting of Directors of Animal Health Laboratories of the Southern Area (LABSUR IV).

F. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PLANNING, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR FMD ERADICATION

A relator of the Seminar read the final document which includes the recommendations made by the working groups about aspects of FMD control and eradication. The Commission approved the recommendations contained in Appendix IV.

G. OTHER MATTERS

1) - Document on the eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Chile

The Representative from Chile distributed a detailed report of the action taken to eliminate the FMD outbreak occurring there in May, 1984. The Secretary thanked Chile for that document, which will serve as a reference for the other countries.

2) - Outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the Bolivian Chaco

The Representative from Bolivia presented information on the outbreak that affected the Chaco region and which included approximately 9000 bovines. The causal virus was type C, possibly brought in from Argentina. The outbreak was controlled by quarantine measures and vaccination.

3) - Selection of the PAMFDC as Reference Center

The Director of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center informed the Meeting that FAO had selected the Center as the "Reference Laboratory for Vesicular Diseases and Similar Infections for Central America and South America". The respective agreement will shortly be formalized between the FAO and PAHO.

4) - Meetings of COINSA and the Pan-American Congress of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry

The IICA Representative distributed information about the COINSA Meeting that will be held in Brasilia from April 29 to May 2, 1985, followed by the Meeting of OIE for the Americas, on May 3rd, and RIMSA, from May 2nd to 5th.

The Pan-American Congress of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 23 to 27, 1985.

5) - Situation of aviar influenza in the U.S.A.

By request of the Secretary, the USDA Representative informed that the situation has been normalized and, as of March 6th, the extra surveillance has been suspended.

6) - Situation of foot-and-mouth disease in Italy

The Secretary asked the CEE Representative to enlarge upon the information regarding this matter. The Representative said that according to unofficial information the outbreak started at the Modena market, where

7000 to 8000 heads of cattle are traded every week. Eradication required the sacrifice of approximately 15,000 animals. The virus diagnosed was A<sub>5</sub> and the source remains unknown. Currently, the country is regarded as virus-free.

The Representative from Uruguay expressed his concern about the lack of information about the outbreak, and asked the CEE to encourage greater reciprocity. The CEE Representative said that there are official channels based on agreements among countries, and that the CEE is not one of those channels.

The FAO Representative stated that the information should come through the OIE, since several countries are members of that Organization.

7) - Outbreak of African swine fever in Belgium

According to the information sent by the OIE to the PAHO on March 8th, the outbreak started on March 6th in Western Flanders; the pertinent quarantine measures were taken. The CEE Representative enlarged the information saying that the possible source may have been pork meat brought in by a tourist from Spain; the scraps were apparently fed to hogs. An observer from Brazil confirmed that an official OIE and IICA communication had been received on March 18th.

An observer from Brazil requested information on whether Italy had normalized the marketing of hogs after the outbreak of African swine fever that took place in 1983 in northern Italy. The CEE Representative said that each country had lifted the restrictions on a bilateral basis.

The Brazilian Representative called attention to the restrictions still in force in Brazil after African swine fever had been eradicated at great cost and effort.

8) - Emerging strains of foot-and-mouth disease virus

A consultant from the PAFMDC made a recount of the FMD virus strains that appeared during the period 1976 to 1985, such as: virus A Venceslau in Brazil (1976 & 1977); A<sub>79</sub> in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay (1979); O<sub>1</sub> in Brazil and Uruguay (1980); C Argentina/84 in Argentina (1984); and the recent appearance of virus type A in São Paulo, Brazil. He stressed that the first action should be to stop the movement of animals, quickly isolate the active virus and adapt it to vaccine production in order to produce an emergency stock. This vaccine could be produced by the PAFMDC whenever the necessary resources are available. This does not mean a definitive change in vaccine strains but rather a preventive measure.

The PAFMDC Director and a consultant acknowledged that in most cases when immediate sanitary measures are applied, effective control is achieved through the use of high potency conventional vaccines without resorting to the use of homologous vaccines prepared from the active strain. Nevertheless, it was considered of utmost importance to have monovalent vaccines available to resolve emergency situations.

The Representatives from Argentina and Paraguay expressed their support for this initiative, which they considered useful for the prompt control of outbreaks caused by new variants.

A consultant from the PAFMDC explained the work conducted with the C Argentina/84 virus strain. He showed that protection was inadequate in animals vaccinated for the first time, but that the response was satisfactory in revaccinated animals.

9) - Serological studies of the C strain from Argentina 1984

A consultant from the PAFMDC presented the serological and immunological studies conducted in cooperation with the Argentine diagnosis laboratory.

10) - Operational problems in the animal health services

A consultant commented on and stressed that the countries of the Region are facing a shortage of financial resources. At the same time, the decision has been taken to proceed to eradicate the disease, which means that the activities can not be conducted adequately. Thus there is a risk that the epidemiological situation may deteriorate. This situation therefore requires an analysis of the possible internal and external sources of funding for the programs.

In this regard, the Coordinator of the HPV/PAHO referred to Resolution II, calling for joint PAHO/IICA action to secure funding.

He also mentioned the availability of a document listing all the agencies that finance health projects and that extend their action to the animal-health field. Regarding possible IDB funding of projects, it is important that the requests be rendered by the countries themselves, based on subregional projects that include the participation of the PAHO/PAFMDC. It is also important to influence the upper levels of the Ministries of Agriculture for the allocation of funds for animal-health projects. He then mentioned the FAO/BIRF and PAHO/IDB Agreements for the preparation of projects.

The IDB Representative shares the PAFMDC's concern about the shortage of internal resources for the programs. He also said that the



IDB places priority on animal-health projects that are components of agricultural and livestock projects, but the high 9.5% interest restrains the utilization of this type of funding. He also explained that there are three funding mechanisms: a) preinvestment projects; b) technical assistance agreements with the IICA for the preparation of agricultural projects (examples are the program to restore Haiti's pig population, Honduras' animal health project, and a Venezuelan project; and c) direct technical cooperation.

A PAFMDC consultant insisted on the need for the countries to draft specific plans with definite time limits and assessable goals.

The Representatives from Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela commented on the operating difficulties faced by the countries in carrying out the programs.

The Chilean Representative stressed the need to rationalize the utilization of the available resources.

The Representative from Uruguay underscored the importance of the subregional programs in rationalizing the use of resources.

11) - Viral diseases similar to vesicular diseases

A consultant from the PAFMDC pointed out the lack of a reference laboratory for diseases like blue tongue, IBR, mucosal disease of cattle, leucosis, etc.

The IICA Representative made reference to the IICA/PAHO Agreement to strengthen the diagnosis of viral diseases.

The HPV/PAHO Coordinator commented that the PAFMDC has resources only to conduct work with vesicular diseases, and any increase in scope will require additional resources.

The Representative from Argentina and Colombia stressed the need to consider expanding the PAFMDC's cooperation to the reference of other viral diseases, in view of the fact that the countries are undertaking programs to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

12) - Site of the XIII COSALFA Meeting

The Secretary read an official letter from the Executive Director of the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) of Chile, offering to host the XIII Regular Meeting of COSALFA. This will provide the occasion for a technological interchange based on the level of development achieved by the Chilean Animal Health Program, particularly with respect to the activities developed to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in that country.

The Commission unanimously approved the offer and expressed its appreciation to the Chilean animal health authorities.

H. RESOLUTIONS

The Chairman submitted the following proposed resolutions to the evaluation of the Representatives:

Resolution I - Laboratory for the diagnosis of animal viral diseases having clinical similarity to vesicular diseases.

Resolution II - International seminar on planning, execution and evaluation of regional foot-and-mouth disease eradication action.

Resolution III - Control of emerging foot-and-mouth disease virus strains.

Resolution IV - Study of the feasibility of creating a regional animal health school.

Resolution V - Research into the epidemiology of vesicular stomatitis.

Resolution VI - Epidemiological information on outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever in Europe.

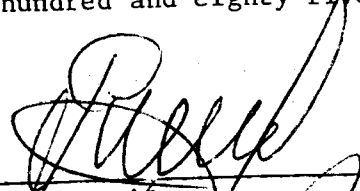
Resolution VII - Technical and financial cooperation for sub-regional foot-and-mouth disease eradication programs.


Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Secretary ex officio, then distributed copies of the Final Report to all the participants. The report was approved.

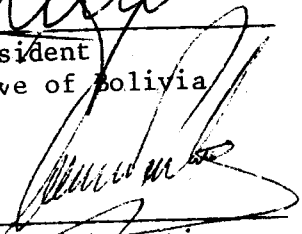
The Meeting was closed at 17:00hs on March 22, 1985.

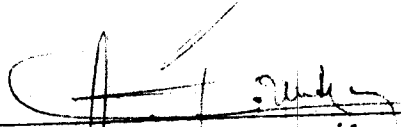
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Chairman of the Meeting, Bolivia Representative; the Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, Secretary ex officio; and the Representatives of the Member Countries, sign the present Final Report in the Spanish and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.


DONE in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this twenty-second day of March nineteen hundred and eighty five.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Representative of Bolivia


  
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Secretary ex officio  
Director of PAFMDC

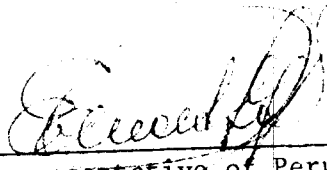
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative of Argentina

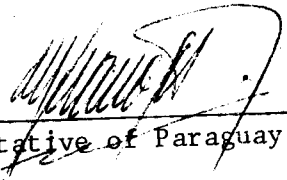
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative of Brazil

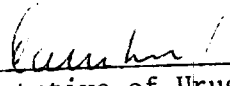
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative of Colombia

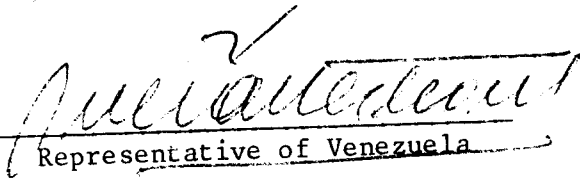
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative of Chile

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative of Ecuador

  
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Representative of Peru

  
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Representative of Paraguay

  
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Representative of Uruguay

  
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Representative of Venezuela

R E S O L U T I O N S

RESOLUTION I

LABORATORY FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF ANIMAL VIRAL DISEASES  
HAVING CLINICAL SIMILARITY TO VESICULAR DISEASES

WHEREAS:

RIMSA II and III have supported Resolution III of COSALFA VIII and Resolution X of COSALFA X; and

The Animal Health Services of the Region have repeatedly acknowledged that a major priority is the need to possess the reference capacity for the diagnosis of animal diseases,

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To encourage each COSALFA Delegate to advise and make his Government aware of the importance of this matter;
2. To recommend that the Ministers of Agriculture request the support of the international financing and technical cooperation agencies for the setting up, at the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), of a reference laboratory for the diagnosis of animal viral diseases that are clinically similar to the vesicular diseases.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION II

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PLANNING, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF  
REGIONAL FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION ACTION

WHEREAS:

Conclusions and recommendations have been issued by the International Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Action; and

Such considerations are opportune and of significant importance;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) for organizing and conducting said Seminar, and to congratulate the participants for the important conclusions reached;

2. To request that the Secretary ex-officio submit a report regarding Recommendations 1 to 4 to the Ministers of Agriculture, or their assigns, in meeting at the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health(RIMSA);

3. To ask the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC/PAHO) to organize an International Seminar on Economic and Financial Aspects of the FMD Eradication Programs, prior to the XIII Regular Meeting of COSALFA.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION III

CONTROL OF EMERGING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VIRUS STRAINS

WHEREAS:

Foot-and-mouth disease epidemics may periodically be caused by virus strains that are antigenically and immunogenically different from the vaccine strains;

The best way to prevent such strains from accentuating and strengthening those differences is through early action to restrict their spreading; and

Replacing vaccine strains with emerging strains requires too long a timespan to prevent the spreading of the emerging strains;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the National Animal Health Services to effect strict measures to immobilize cattle in areas subject to the influence of emerging viral strains;
2. To reiterate that the National Diagnosis Laboratories, as quickly as possible, send to the Reference Laboratory at the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMDC/PAHO), the strains that exhibit antigenic differences to the vaccine strains, even though such differences are slight;
3. To request that the PAFMDC/PAHO, upon receiving the emerging foot-and-mouth disease strains from the countries, pursue research tending to enable such strains to be used in the production of vaccine antigens; and
4. To pursue mechanisms for securing a permanent fund to enable the PAFMDC/PAHO to produce and maintain banks of monovalent vaccines with the emerging strains, as long as the risk of spreading such strains exists.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION IV

STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A REGIONAL  
ANIMAL HEALTH SCHOOL

WHEREAS:

Recommendation 5 was issued by the International Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Action, organized by the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMDC/PAHO);

COSALFA regards that Recommendation as opportune and of a priority nature;

There is a need to encourage the international agencies concerned with animal health to participate in such a study; and

It is acknowledge that the COSALFA does not have the resources to establish the Study Committee;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

To ask the COSALFA Delegates and its Secretary ex officio to put forth every possible effort to interest and gain support from the national and international agencies and institutions providing technical and financial cooperation, in order to set up a Studies Committee to study the Feasibility of a Regional Animal Health School.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)



RESOLUTION V

RESEARCH INTO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF VESICULAR STOMATITIS

WHEREAS:

The Report on the Epidemiological Situation of Vesicular Diseases has indicated a progressive increase in the frequency of vesicular stomatitis in some countries of South America;

Atypical epidemic waves were recorded in 1982 and 1983 in the United States of America and Mexico; and

The lack of field studies about this disease was pointed out in the conclusions of the meeting on vesicular stomatitis held in Mexico in September, 1984;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

To recommend that the affected countries allocate resources for research projects, to be undertaken in conjunction with the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMDC/PAHO), with the goal of studying vesicular stomatitis epidemiology as a basis for a definition of the measures to control this disease.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION VI

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION ON OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE  
AND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN EUROPE

WHEREAS:

Information has assumed increasing importance in improving the effectiveness of the animal health programs in South America;

Epidemiological information is timely data required on the international scene for the prevention of exotic agents; and

The countries of South America have put forth a great effort to control and provide timely information to the international community about events caused by exotic agents;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

To advise the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) of their concern with respect to the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Italy and African swine fever in Belgium, events about which the South American countries have received only incomplete and delayed information.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION V

RESEARCH INTO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF VESICULAR STOMATITIS

WHEREAS:

The Report on the Epidemiological Situation of Vesicular Diseases has indicated a progressive increase in the frequency of vesicular stomatitis in some countries of South America;

Atypical epidemic waves were recorded in 1982 and 1983 in the United States of America and Mexico; and

The lack of field studies about this disease was pointed out in the conclusions of the meeting on vesicular stomatitis held in Mexico in September, 1984;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

To recommend that the affected countries allocate resources for research projects, to be undertaken in conjunction with the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMDC/PAHO), with the goal of studying vesicular stomatitis epidemiology as a basis for a definition of the measures to control this disease.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION VI

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION ON OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE  
AND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN EUROPE

WHEREAS:

Information has assumed increasing importance in improving the effectiveness of the animal health programs in South America;

Epidemiological information is timely data required on the international scene for the prevention of exotic agents; and

The countries of South America have put forth a great effort to control and provide timely information to the international community about events caused by exotic agents;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

To advise the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) of their concern with respect to the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Italy and African swine fever in Belgium, events about which the South American countries have received only incomplete and delayed information.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

RESOLUTION VII

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION FOR SUBREGIONAL  
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS:

During the 1983-84 two-year period the foot-and-mouth disease programs in South America were reformulated within the framework of the "Policy and Strategies for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America in the Ten-year Period 1981-1990";

Particular priority has been directed to eliminating the disease throughout Uruguay, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, in the Mesopotamian region of Argentina and in the eastern region of Paraguay;

Priority has likewise been directed to eliminating foot-and-mouth disease in Peru and to the risk factors along the Columbian-Ecuadorian border, as well as to expanding the free area in northern Colombia;

These objectives require an intensification of the coordination of the foot-and-mouth disease campaign among the aforesaid countries, plus improved epidemiological surveillance and information systems, in addition to prompt and effective attention to the outbreaks presented, availability of a sufficient stock of oil-adjuvanted vaccines for strategic situations, and upgraded safety conditions at the laboratories; and

The action pursued by the countries of the Plata Basin and of the Andean Group deserve to be strengthened with greater international technical and financial cooperation;

THE XII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela submit to the international financial cooperation agencies a common request for a non-payback loan so that COSALFA, via its Secretary ex officio, may intensify its support to the foot-and-mouth disease control effort in the aforesaid geographical areas, especially support to the activities of epidemiological surveillance, timely and effective attention to outbreaks, availability of a stock of oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine for strategic situations, and the pursuit of detailed studies to establish or improve the safety measures at the official laboratories;

2. To request that the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMD/PAHO) formulate, in consultation with the countries, a project for a non-payback loan proposal;

3. To request that the Second Meeting of the Interamerican Commission on Animal Health (COINSA II) and the Fourth Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA IV) approve this Resolution.

(Approved at the plenary  
session on March 22, 1985)

**APPENDIX I - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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

XII ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 21-22, 1985

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Secretaría de Defesa Sanitária Animal (SDSA/MA)  
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Ministerio de Agricultura  
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Dirección General de Servicios Veterinarios  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca  
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de Enfermedades  
Dirección General de Desarrollo Ganadero  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría  
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Caracas  
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SECRETARIAT  
EX OFFICIO

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Secretario ex officio  
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Tel: 771-3128

OBSERVERS

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Servicio de Luchas Sanitarias (SELSA)  
Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería  
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BOLIVIA

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APPENDIX II - PROGRAM

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

XII ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 21-22, 1985

P R O G R A M

March 21, Thursday

- 09:00 Inaugural session.
- 09:20 A. Report of the Secretariat ex officio.
- 10:00 Discussion of the Report.
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 10:45 B. Epidemiological Situation and Status of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs in South America, 1984.
- 11:30 C. Evaluation of the Continental Vesicular Disease Information and Epidemiological Surveillance System.
- 12:30 Lunch.
- 14:00 D. Implementation of the Policy and Strategies for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America in the Ten-Year Period 1981-1990.

March 22, Friday

- 09:00 E. Sanitary Regulations for the Intraregional Trade of Animals and Semen.
- 10:15 Coffee break.
- 10:30 F. Recommendations of the International Seminar on Planning, Execution and Evaluation of Regional Actions for FMD Eradication.
- 11:15 G. Other matters.
- 12:15 Lunch.
- 14:00 H. Resolutions.  
Final Report.
- 16:00 Closure.

APPENDIX III - II PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTION  
PROPOSED IN THE DOCUMENT "POLICY AND  
STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-  
MOUTH DISEASE IN SOUTH AMERICA IN THE  
TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1981-1990"



SECOND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF ACTION  
PROPOSED IN THE DOCUMENT  
"POLICY AND STRATEGIES FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE  
IN SOUTH AMERICA IN THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1981-1990"

March 15, 1985

1. OPERATIONALIZATION

The work of characterizing, for operational purposes, the forms of livestock production and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) ecosystems have proceeded at varying levels of development. One group of countries or areas of countries has already prepared studies which enable them to draw up specific strategies. Among those countries are Argentina, Brazil's states of Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná and Santa Catarina, Ecuador and Uruguay. Those areas still require procedures for field sampling for the serological or virological characterization of possible pockets of endemicity.

A second group, which includes Brazil's central and northeastern states, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela has concluded advanced preliminary studies. However, the studies require updating or filling in of missing information, geographic as well as indicators that are difficult to obtain.

Lastly, the information is still very preliminary in Bolivia and in some regions of northern Brazil.

2. NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION

2.1 ARGENTINA

With technical cooperation from the Pan-American Health Organization's Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC/PAHO), the Argentine National Animal Health Service (SENASA) has drawn up the Argentine Animal Health Plan (PLANARSA) whose goals include the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease within ten years. The Plan has been approved by the upper-level authorities of the National Government, which is studying the means of securing the required funding. The preliminary work for implementation will commence during the current year, and the plan is expected to be fully in progress in early 1986.

## 2.2 BOLIVIA

The Plan for the second stage of the FMD campaign has not yet been implemented. By suggestion of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) several aspects of the Plan were been revised and resubmitted to that financing agency by the Bolivian Ministry of Planning.

## 2.3 BRAZIL

Negotiations are in progress with the World Bank for the partial funding of the Project for the Second Stage of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign. Missions from the World Bank/United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) visited Brazil in 1984 and prepared a full report. In the meantime, action tending to accomplish gradual elimination of the disease in the state of Rio Grande do Sul has been put into effect with local funding.

## 2.4 COLOMBIA

No significant progress has been made with respect to the negotiation for the Project for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. However, preparatory action continues on the island north of the Dique channel.

## 2.5 CHILE

Analysis is underway of the information gathered for the diagnosis of the situation of the risks of introducing FMD and other exotic diseases into Chile. The effort has the cooperation of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAFMDC/PAHO).

## 2.6 ECUADOR

With cooperation from the PAFMDC/PAHO, the basic guidelines were laid in 1984 for a Project for the Second Stage of the Campaign to Control Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Brucellosis and Classic Swine Fever. The new national government is currently reviewing the document and analyzing the feasibility of implementing it with foreign funding. The project proposes to eliminate FMD in the south-central and eastern portions of the country within five years, protective buffer action in the north-central part, and detection and gradual elimination of endemic foci in the coastal region.

The pilot plan has started in the endemic zone of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, with the application of oil-adjuvanted vaccine supplied by the PAFMDC.

2.7 GUYANA

Preventive action proceeds along the border with the Federal Territory of Roraima, Brazil. The three-country border agreement with Brazil and Venezuela acts to support the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Prevention Program.

2.8 PARAGUAY

The National Animal Health Services (SENACSA) is developing action to control foot-and-mouth disease, in accordance with the 1984-1988 Program approved on April 24, 1984.

2.9 PERU

Economic reasons have hindered the implementation of the activities forecast for 1984 and referred to in last year's respective report.

2.10 URUGUAY

Utilizing national funds, the General Department of Veterinary Services has undertaken the action described in the revision of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Plan which proposes to eradicate the disease by the end of the current decade.

2.11 VENEZUELA

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved the financing of a project for a Program of Livestock and Agricultural Technological Development (PRODETEC). The project includes the construction of a laboratory to produce oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine. In the meantime, the epidemiological surveillance system was reviewed in order to make it compatible with the new program requirements.

3. SUBREGIONAL PLANS

3.1 The Three-Country Border Area of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay

As one of the most important areas of cattle raising and possible endemic source of virus, this border area has received priority attention through the pertinent border agreements.

In addition to the specific activities proposed by each national plan, the three countries are jointly assessing the action required to attain the goal of eradicating FMD by the end of the decade. It is hoped that Paraguay will officially join the three countries and include its border areas in the common effort.

### 3.2 Pantanal of Mato Grosso and Eastern Plains of Bolivia

Technical and economic reasons have delayed the development of new action in this region in which a high degree of endemicity has been documented. The Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and the Secretariat of Animal Health Defense recently launched a program of vaccination with oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine produced by the Animal Reference Laboratory in Campinas (LARA) with supervision from the PAFMDC/PAHO.

### 3.3 Colombian-Venezuelan Plains

The border agreement between Colombia and Venezuela went into effect in 1984, a promising step toward a cooperative effort. The national services of both countries have prepared an excellent study characterizing the cattle-raising situation in the border zone, as an initial step for future programs.

### 3.4 East-Central Region of Brazil

The specific action aiming to eliminate possible endemic sources of virus in this region depends on the startup of the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Plan that is currently being negotiated with the World Bank.

### 3.5 South-Central Argentina

The region lying south of the Barrancas and Colorado Rivers has not had any clinical record of FMD since April, 1984, when the special vaccination plan using vaccine supplied by the PAFMDC went into effect. However, the buffer action to be executed north of this region --after which vaccination may be suspended-- can not be fully implemented until after the startup of the PLANARSA activities.

### 3.6 Colombian and Ecuadorian Border Area

The border agreement between Colombia and Ecuador, and the countries' respective national foot-and-mouth disease control plans, have provided the elements required to reduce substantially this region's impact on both countries' livestock industry. Nevertheless, difficulties of an economic and financial nature have hindered the taking of concrete action.

APPENDIX IV - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE "INTERNATIONAL  
SEMINAR ON PLANNING, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL ACTIONS FOR FOOT-  
AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION"

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PLANNING, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF  
REGIONAL ACTION FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION.

Rio de Janeiro, PAFMDC, March 18-20, 1985

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Seminar,

CONSIDERING:

1. As a frame of reference the document issued by COSALFA IX and entitled "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990" and approved by the ministries of agriculture and livestock of the respective Member Countries of the Region at RIMSA III held in Washington, DC, on April 11-14, 1983;
2. The present status of the FMD control programs in South American countries; and
3. The topics evaluated and discussed during this Seminar;

CONCLUDES:

1. That the important accomplishments achieved in the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease during the 1970's and first half of the 1980's run the risk of being lost as a consequence of the growing financial restrictions that are negatively affecting the control programs;
2. That an appropriate methodology has been developed to characterize the forms of production and the livestock raising systems and their determining role on the foot-and-mouth disease ecosystems;
3. That this methodology enables political, strategic, tactical and operational decisions to be taken to accomplish the desired eradication of FMD;
4. That the projects recently reformulated by some of the countries of the Region are economically and technically compatible with the goals of eradication of FMD, and that the remaining countries participating in the Seminar have decided to undertake or complete similar projects;

5. That to accomplish eradication of FMD in the countries of the Region requires a continental approach that contemplates ecosystems in common or interdependent ecosystems, and that COSALFA and the border agreements constitute a necessary and competent instrument;

6. That the role of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) has been, and remains, irreplaceable in attaining the accomplishments reached by the national programs;

7. That despite the effort realized by the national health services with the cooperation of the Pan-American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank in preparing and training the human resources involved in the programs, the number of specialists available is still insufficient to accomplish the goals of eradicating FMD and implementing other animal-health programs.

THEREFORE RECOMMENDS:

1. That the persons responsible for the national animal-health services have a more active participation in analyzing and defining their respective countries' agricultural and livestock development programs.

2. That the services, when preparing and analyzing the national animal-health programs, receive the participation of the national planning agencies.

3. That the governments emphatically pursue all possible means to allocate to the national and subregional programs the resources required to achieve eradication of FMD.

4. That the PAFMDC expand its technical cooperation with the countries in the training of human resources and in formulating and implementing the FMD eradication programs.

5. That COSALFA appoint a committee charged with studying the feasibility of creating a Latin American Animal Health School whose purpose would be to train specialized instructors and executors of programs in the area.