



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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Provisional Agenda Item 11

RIMSA1/16 (Eng.)

9 April 1980

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

Report of the Seventh Regular Meeting

COSALFA VII

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COSALFA VII

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

VII Ordinary Meeting

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 20-21, 1980

FINAL REPORT

The Seventh (VII) Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held on March 20 and 21, 1980, at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. Observers were present from the United States of America, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Surinam, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA), the European Economic Community (EEC), the Inter-American Agricultural Sciences Institute (IIICA) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (Appendix I).

In the absence of the representative from Peru, and in accordance with the Commission's statutes, the Meeting was chaired by Dr. Artigas Figares Lockhart, the Uruguayan delegate.

The Meeting Agenda was approved without alteration (Appendix II).

The secretary's report was then read by Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga ex officio secretary, who first presented the pertinent resolutions of the COSALFA/VI and their respective results:

Resolution I, concerning Guyana's interest in joining COSALFA: The ex officio secretary had taken the necessary steps and contacted the Government of Guyana in order to formalize the request for admission. No reply had been received to date.

Resolution II, concerning characterization of ecosystems: The Center had prepared a guide for epidemiological characterization of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The guide was distributed to all South American countries and reviewed at the International Seminar on Diagnosis and Epidemiological Surveillance that the Center held in Maracay, Venezuela, from August 27 to September 1, 1979. Five countries had forwarded the required information.

Resolution III, concerning evaluation of the epidemiological information system: The Center prepared a document, which is included in the report on the present status of the program.

Resolution IV, work of the PAFMDC: The Center Director informed the meeting about the decisions taken by the directing bodies of the Pan American

Health Organization (PAHO) regarding the Center's remaining under the PAHO, in response to the request formulated by the Ministers of Agriculture during the RICAZ-XII meeting. He explained the budgetary aspects and indicated that during the RICAZ-XII all the countries, with the exception of the United States of America, had approved the work plan and budget for 1980 and 1981, which included alternatives for restoring and increasing the sums allocated. The PAHO directing bodies approved the budget but accepted only the figure to restore the budget. They also recommended that a commission carry out an evaluation of the PAHO Centers. The evaluation would serve to assist in determining the budgetary aspects for the coming years and in considering the function of the Center. He then mentioned that the commission had already visited the Center and the countries and should submit its report at the next meeting of the Directing Council in late September 1980.

Resolution VI, concerning the importing of fighting bulls from Spain: The Center had gathered information from the interested countries and prepared a report on the matter, which is available to the countries.

Resolution VIII, concerning the COSALFA-VI report at the RICAZ-XII: The secretary had sent the reports requested to the governments of Paraguay and Peru. The delegate from Paraguay attended the RICAZ-XII.

Resolution IX, concerning a health education seminar for FMD programs: The Center organized and held a seminar on March 17-19, 1980. An assessment and analysis were made of the present status of health education and communication activities, and the participants were familiarized with the techniques and methodologies available about those topics and which can be utilized in animal health programs in order to secure more effective community participation.

The secretary also referred to the following topics and matters: Project for a course on epidemiology, information systems and development of animal health programs that the Center is preparing to hold for three months, beginning in August, 1980, in cooperation with the Brazilian Government.

Report on the management planning and administration course for animal health programs that had been held in cooperation with the Getulio Vargas Foundation's Inter-American School of Public Administration. Twenty-four veterinarians from the animal health services of 14 South and Central American countries attended the course which, according to the evaluation made by the Getulio Vargas Foundation, attained its objectives.

The secretary also spoke of the report prepared by the Center on the VIA FMD test, wherein all existing information is compiled and recommendations are given for the use of the test in programs for preventing, controlling and eradicating the disease.

The Chairman then thanked the secretary for his report and, on behalf of the Commission, congratulated the Center for the extensive and concrete work in favor of FMD control programs.

The Chairman then reminded delegates about the need to make the Ministers of Agriculture aware of the Center's activities, with a view to their support for the budget to be requested at the upcoming Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Animal Health (RIMSA), to be held in Washington, DC, next April 14-17.

The delegate from Argentina then requested information in this regard on budgetary aspects. In replying, the Head of the PAHO Animal Health Program and the Center Director, indicated that the 1980 budget had been approved with its restorative formula, but not with the formula for expanding it. They also explained that the information on Center activities and the budgetary details are set forth in the program and budget document sent annually to the Ministers of Public Health and Agriculture prior to the RICAZ or RIMSA meetings.

The Colombian delegate expressed the need to strengthening the Centers economically so that they can broaden their technical cooperation activities in the countries.

The delegate from Ecuador stated that from 1980 on the imports of cattle and fighting animals for breeding purposes will be carried out in strict compliance with quarantine regulations.

The representative from Paraguay expressed his thanks to the Center for the two fellowships granted for the administration course and recommended that for future courses the countries and the Center should exercise care in selecting the participants in order to ensure greater homogeneity.

The Chairman then submitted the secretary's report to the consideration of the Commission; it was approved.

In accordance with the agenda, Dr. Roberto Goic M., head of the Center's Technical Cooperation group, presented a summary of the animal vesicular disease situation in the Americas in 1979. Special reference was made to FMD in South America. His description was complemented by an assessment of the continental vesicular diseases information system, presented by Dr. Vicente Astudillo, the Center's statistician. Both matters are covered in the document "Situation of FMD control programs. South America - 1979" which the PAHO will present at First Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Animal Health (RIMSA-1).

The Argentine delegate enlarged the information on the FMD situation in his country. He indicated that Patagonia continues free of the disease and that there is a marginal zone without foci and provinces with only sporadic cases. He also explained the advances that have been made since 1977 when strict vaccine quality controls were initiated. He also informed about reorientation of the FMD control program, beginning June 1980, based on the experience acquired through the Hipólito Irigoyen Pilot Plan that included an evaluation of oil-adjuvanted vaccine. He concluded his presentation by informing that Argentina is preparing or has signed animal health agreements with all its neighbors.

The Bolivian delegate underscored the difficulties encountered in obtaining vaccines, a situation that was solved with the help of the PAFMDC. In this regard he wished to express his gratitude to the Center, and proposed that a vaccine bank be set up to supply countries facing these problems.

The representative from Brazil mentioned the new national FMD control plan that is in the planning stage and will be put into effect in 1980. He said that the strict vaccine quality control measures led to rejection of 29.8 million doses out of a total of 220 million produced in 1979. He also referred to the field work being developed involving oil-adjuvanted vaccine, in cooperation with the PAFMDC, which had produced highly positive results. The process of licensing the production of a commercial oil-adjuvanted vaccine has begun.

The Chilean representative discussed preventive methods utilized in his country to keep it free of FMD outbreaks and mentioned that the episodes occurring in recent years were always brought in from outside the country.

The delegate from Colombia spoke of the plans being implemented in the control of FMD: control of vaccine in cattle, increase of vaccine production and strengthening of the present structure by means of national and external funding. He informed about research with oil-adjuvanted vaccine and the expansion of coverage to a population of 100,000 cattle during the this year. He concluded his discussion by mentioning the measures taken to contain the epidemic on the Bogota plains, which led to a significant reduction of foci.

The delegate from Ecuador referred to the FMD problems in the northern region, possibly owing to the transit of animals along the border with Colombia. He indicated that vaccination coverage remains low, and mentioned the present plans to import cattle from Brazil and Uruguay.

The Paraguayan delegate discussed the difficult situation caused by FMD during 1979 and cited several factors that facilitated the presence of outbreaks: prolonged droughts and floods that brought about widespread animal transit, low cattle immunization, lack of vaccines at the right moment, changes in the livestock development policies and system of commercialization. He also spoke of the rigid vaccine quality controls that led to the rejection of some production, and mentioned that the disbursement of the IDB loan is expected shortly. He also discussed the agreements that Paraguay has made with neighbor countries.

The Venezuelan representative reported that attenuated live virus is still utilized there, but that steps are being taken to initiate the production of inactivated virus vaccines. He also referred to the border health agreement signed with Brazil on the occasion of the visit of Brazil's president to Venezuela.

The representative from Uruguay highlighted the current favorable status of the FMD program and explained the accidental outbreak caused by the escape of a virus from a laboratory. The episode served to test the

efficiency of the methods utilized to control the outbreak, which was effectively and efficiently countered. He indicated that virus C has not been typified in Uruguay for two years.

After the noon adjournment, Dr. Roberto Goic presented the document covering importation of Spanish fighting bulls and suggested the need for holding a special meeting involving Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, to analyze the different aspects of quarantine and importation.

Dr. Felix J. Rosenberg, Center epidemiologist, then spoke on the regionalization study for FMD control and indicated how the proposed methodology would make the control methods more efficient. He reported that five countries had turned in the required information and that the difficulty to be faced in gathering the data was acknowledged, but that the Center had cooperated in orienting some countries. It is expected that the study will be concluded within a reasonable period of time. He then asked the delegates to present their comments on the subject.

The delegates from Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela spoke of their difficulty in compiling the data and of the need to coordinate with other entities to facilitate the work.

The Chilean delegate said that Chile had compiled 90% of the required data and that the work would be concluded with the information provided through the national census to be completed in mid-1980.

The Brazilian delegate reported that some states had already gathered the information, and therefore he felt the work would be completed within a reasonable time span. He reiterated his conviction of the usefulness of the project.

Dr. Rosenberg gave examples of how the information on regional characterization could be used to reach the goal of eradicating FMD from substantial areas of the continent in the coming years.

The Argentine delegate considered that the explanations presented during the meeting would be of great use and promised to send the study in shortly.

At 15:30 the meeting was adjourned to allow time for countries having special agreements to meet.

The third session of the Ordinary Meeting opened at 9:00 on the morning of the 21st. Following the Chairman's request, the following themes were proposed for discussion at the 1981 seminar adjunct to COSALFA/VIII: economic evaluation of FMD control programs, animal quarantine stations and production and quality control of FMD vaccine. After the respective discussion, the third topic was approved, and the Center was asked to include the first topic on the agenda of the Center's regular program.

The Paraguayan delegate then mentioned an article published in the Argentine newspaper La Nación, about the European Economic Commission (EEC) and FMD control. He then asked the EEC representative, Dr. F. Contardo, to explain that information.

Dr. Contardo explained that in response to requests from the embassies of several South American countries, the EEC had in principle agreed to assist in FMD control. The European experience would be utilized in resolving problems of reciprocal interest. The points of cooperation identified a priori are: 1) vaccines and 2) field control. He announced that a mission composed of two experts would soon be visiting Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay to discuss possible points for cooperation.

The Paraguayan delegate suggested that the COSALFA members analyze the matter in a private session and indicated that the cooperation could broaden the Center's activities. He expressed his gratitude for the eventual availability of new resources.

The delegate from Brazil requested that Dr. Contardo's explanation be included in the Minutes and said that any cooperation should be rendered through COSALFA.

Dr. Contardo said that the matter is still under study and the terms and conditions will be discussed in accordance with the results of the upcoming mission. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, the methods and extent of cooperation will be discussed and agreed with the Center and other international bodies so that it will be a worthwhile cooperation.

The Ecuadorian delegate stated that his country had already defined its position and was in favor of all assistance being channelled through the Center.

The Center's Director said that he had learned of the matter through a communication from the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture. Up to the time of the meeting he had received no direct communication from the EEC and stressed the desirability of coordinating all aspects from the beginning.

Dr. Mario V. Fernandes added that PAHO had also not received any direct information. It had learned of the EEC's interest through communications from Ecuador and the USA; he also suggested that the matter be addressed to the PAHO and to COSALFA.

Dr. Pedro N. Acha expressed his satisfaction at the EEC's interest. He stressed the IDB's financial aid and its role in the development of the programs, as well as the efforts expended by the countries. As an example of the important advances achieved, he pointed out the vesicular diseases information system, considered one of the best organized and most efficient of its kind. He said that the EEC's cooperation could be in more sophisticated aspects and could include credit facilities. In any case it should be conducted in a coordinated way with the countries and their international bodies.

Dr. Hugo Medina, the LAFTA representative, reported that the Association had been contacted to participate in the EEC project due to its role

as a body for regional integration. He said that with respect to the technical aspects a close contact with the Center would be maintained.

The private session of the Commission was held during a fourth interval.

The plenary session was reopened at 11:30. The Chairman informed the meeting that a resolution was being prepared to express the opinion of COSALFA about the project for EEC-Latin American cooperation, express appreciation for the aid and suggest aspects for coordination.

The Chairman submitted for consideration the conclusions of the International Seminar on Rural Communication and Health Education in Animal Health Programs and proposed that COSALFA adopt the document. The proposal was approved without modification.

The delegates then presented projects for resolutions on various subjects. Appendix III contains the resolutions approved.

The Center Director explained the project for the production of oil-adjuvanted vaccines in the Campinas laboratory in conjunction with the Brazilian Government. The project was favorably received by all the delegates of the countries.

Dr. Mário Fernandes then discussed the project for training in animal health that is being planned by the PAHO in conjunction with the IDB. Courses are to be offered in administration, oil-adjuvanted vaccines, communications and quarantine stations. It is estimated that 598 veterinarians and 240 inspectors will be trained through the courses scheduled to begin in 1981.

Dr. Enrique Estuardo Torres, IDB representative, explained the importance that the Bank has attached to animal health and livestock production through non-reimbursable technical cooperation funds. He pointed out the desirability of integrating animal health activities as essential components of livestock development projects.

The delegate from Holland informed that his Government has accepted a request from the PAFMDC to assign a professional to the Center under the multilateral associates system. The respective arrangements are expected to be concluded during the course of the year.

The Center Director then awarded the Certificates of Attendance to the participants of the International Seminar on Rural Communication and Health Education in Animal Health Programs.

Finally the Meeting Chairman and the Center Director thanked the delegates for their active participation and the meeting was closed at 16:00.

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

VII ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - March 20-21, 1980

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

ARGENTINA

Dr. Federico E. González Grey
Director General de Sanidad Animal
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Animal - SENASA
Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura y Ganadería
Paseo Colón 922
Buenos Aires

BOLIVIA

Dr. Marcial Arteaga Hayashida
Director Ejecutivo
Servicio Nacional de Control de la Fiebre Aftosa,
Rabia y Brucelosis - SENARB
Calle Suárez Miranda, 333
Quillacollo - Cochabamba

BRAZIL

Dr. Alberto dos Santos
Secretário da
Secretaria de Defesa Sanitária Animal - SDSA
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Super Center Venâncio 2000 - 3º and.
Quadra 8, Bloco 60 - SCS
Brasília, D.F.

COLOMBIA

Dr. Pedro León Velázquez L.
Gerente General
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario - ICA
Calle 37, No. 8-43, 8º piso
Bogotá

CHILE

Dr. Jorge Rafael Benavides Muñoz
Director, División de Protección Pecuaria
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero - SAG
Avda. Bulnes 140, 7º piso
Santiago

ECUADOR

Dr. Pedro Hugo Díaz Estrella
Director
Programa Nacional de Sanidad Animal
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
Casilla 108
San Blas
Quito

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES (cont')

PARAGUAY

Dr. Juan Pablo Romero
Presidente y Jefe Administrativo
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Animal - SENACSA
Km 10 1/2 Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia
Ciudad Universitaria de San Lorenzo

URUGUAY

Dr. Artigas Figares Lockhart
Director
Dirección de Lucha contra la Fiebre Aftosa - DILFA
Ruta 8, Brig. Gral. Juan A. Lavalleja Km 29
Pando

VENEZUELA

Dr. Humberto Olmos Colmenares
Director de Sanidad Animal
Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Torre Norte, piso 12
Centro Simón Bolívar

OBSERVERS

ARGENTINA

Dr. Carlos Hugo Caggiano
Director General
Servicio de Luchas Sanitarias - SELSA
Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura y Ganadería
Av. Pte. Julio A. Roca 751, 1er. piso
Buenos Aires

Dr. Eduardo Pedro Pereda
Asesor de la
Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería
de la República Argentina
Paseo Colón 974
Buenos Aires

BOLIVIA

Dr. Mario Torrico Morales
Jefe Nacional de Educación Sanitaria y
Comunicaciones - SENARB
Casilla de Correo 160
Cochabamba

BRAZIL

Dr. Ubiratan Mendes Serrão
Secretário Nacional
Secretaria Nacional de Defesa Agropecuária - SNAD
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Super Center Venâncio 2000 - 5º and.
Quadra 8, Bloco 60 - SCS
Brasília, D.F.

OBSERVERS (cont')

BRAZIL

Dr. Fabio Paceli Anselmo
Diretor da
Divisão de Profilaxia e Combate às Doenças - Dicomd
Secretaria de Defesa Sanitária Animal - SDSA
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Super Center Venâncio 2000 - s/312
Brasília, D.F.

Dr. Décio de Araújo Lyra
Diretor Geral Substituto
Laboratório Nacional de Referência Animal - LANARA
Secretaria Nacional de Defesa Agropecuária - SNAD
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Super Center Venâncio 2000
Setor Rádio Difusão Sul
Brasília, D.F.

Dr. José Diocleciano Peixoto
Coordenador
Grupo Executivo de Combate à Febre Aftosa - GECOFa
Alameda São Boaventura, 770 - Fonseca
Niterói, RJ

Dr. Evandro Horta Costa
Médico Veterinário
Ministério da Agricultura
Horto Florestal
Alameda São Boaventura, 770 - Fonseca
Niterói, RJ

Dr. Francisco de Assis Sampaio
Médico Veterinário Educação Sanitária - MA-DFA/RIO
Delegacia Federal de Agricultura-Rio
Alameda São Boaventura, 770 - Fonseca
Niterói, RJ

Dr. Luiz Aimerê Soares de Freitas
Secretário de Agricultura - Roraima
SAGRI - Secretaria de Agricultura
Rua Alfredo Cruz, 250
Boa Vista - Roraima

Dr. Luiz Pustiglione Netto
Diretor Técnico
Instituto Biológico de São Paulo - I.B.S.P.
Secretaria da Agricultura e Abastecimento
Av. Cons. Rodrigues Alves, 1252
Vila Clementino - São Paulo

OBSERVERS (cont')

COLOMBIA

Dr. Gustavo Manrique Londoño
Subgerente Producción Pecuaria
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuaria - ICA
Diag. 22B No. 43A - 31
Bogotá

CHILE

Dr. Renato González Rosas
Encargado del Proyecto de Control y Erradicación
de la Fiebre Aftosa
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero - SAG
Av. Bulnes 140 - 7º piso
Santiago

UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Roger Steele
Veterinary Attaché
British Embassy
Dr. Luis Agote 2412
Buenos Aires, Argentina

KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS

Dr. Willem F.G.L. Droppers
Agregado Agrícola para Asuntos Veterinarios
Embajada Real de los Países Bajos
Maipú 66
Buenos Aires, Argentina

PARAGUAY

Dr. José Wilfrido Medina Mendoza
Jefe División de Educación Sanitaria y Divulgación
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Animal - SENACSA
Km 10 1/2 Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia
Ciudad Universitaria de San Lorenzo

Dr. Celso Regúnega
Subjefe División Educación Sanitaria y Divulgación
Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Animal - SENACSA
Km 10 1/2 Ruta Mariscal Estigarribia
Ciudad Universitaria de San Lorenzo

SURINAME

Dr. Otmar George Bottse
Diplomat 2º Secretario
Embajada de Suriname
QI7 - Conjunto 6 Casa 14
Brasília, D.F.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALALC

Dr. Hugo Medina
Asistente Depto. Asuntos Agropecuarios
Asociación Latinoamericana de Libre Comercio
Cebollatí 1461
Montevideo - Uruguay

APHIS/USDA

Dr. Norvan Meyer
Assistant Deputy Administrator
International Programs, APHIS/USDA
Veterinary Services
Room 316E - USDA/APHIS/VS
Washington, D.C. 20520 - USA

IDB

Dr. Enrique Estuardo Torres
Especialista Sección Ganadera y Comercialización
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo
801, 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20577 - USA

Dr. Ildeu Pereira dos Reis
Asistente Especialista Sectorial
Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento
Palácio da Agricultura - Andar Térreo - SBN
Brasília, D.F., Brasil

CEE

Dr. F. Contardo
Comunidades Económicas Europeas
Rue de la Loi 86
Bureau 7/41
Bruxeller, Belgium

FAO

Dr. Frank J. Peritz
Oficial Regional en Producción y Sanidad Animal
FAO Oficina Regional para América Latina
Casilla de Correo 19095
Santiago - Chile

IICA/OEA

Dr. Pedro N. Acha
Asesor Especial del Director General
Programa de Salud Animal - IICA
1889 F Street, N.W. Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006 - USA

Dr. José Irineu Cabral
Diretor
Instituto Interamericano de Ciências Agrícolas - IICA
Praia do Flamengo, 322 - 89 and.
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (cont')

PAHO/WHO

Dr. Mário V. Fernandes
Jefe, Programa Especial Salud Animal
PAHO/WHO
525 Twenty Third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 - USA

FAO/PAFMDC

Srta. Patricia Chain
Oficial de Comunicación

PAHO/PAFMDC

Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga
Director

Dr. Roberto Goiç M.
Jefe de Cooperación Técnica

Dr. Paul Suttmöller
Jefe Laboratorios

Dr. Jaime Estupiñán
Jefe Adiestramiento e Información

Dr. Manuel Kulfas
Administrador

Dr. Félix J. Rosenberg
Epidemiólogo

Dr. Vicente Astudillo
Estadístico

Dr. Juan Antonio Obiaga
Epidemiólogo

Dr. José Freire de Faria
Consultor PAFMDC in Paraguay

Dr. Albino Alonso Fernández
Serólogo

Dr. Daniel Abaracón
Consultor en Vacunas

Dr. Homero F. Giacometti V.
Investigador

Dr. Julio de A. Mesquita
Investigador

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (CONT')

PAHO/PAFMDC

Dr. Paulo Augé de Mello
Investigador

Dr. Eduardo R. Centeno
Bioquímico

Dr. Ivo Gomes
Investigador

Dr. Magnus Stael Sondahl
Investigador Asistente

Dra. Maria Elma V. Ferreira
Investigador Asistente

Dra. Kleise de Freitas Costa
Investigador Asistente

Dr. Tito Livio Machado
Director Proyecto BRA-3203

Dr. Enrique O. Orlando
Veterinario Proyecto BRA-3203

Dr. Hernán Málaga Cruz
Bioestadístico Proyecto BRA-3203

Dra. Lilian Barros
Economista Proyecto BRA-3203

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

VII ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - March 20-21, 1980

PROGRAMThursday, 20

09:00 a.m	Opening Session
09:15	Report by the Secretariat
09:45	Discussion of the report
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Report of FMD situation in South America, 1979
12:30	Lunch
01:30 p.m	FMD ecosystems in South America: Report from the countries
02:30	Coffee break
03:00	Importation of fighting bulls from Spain

Friday, 21

09:00 a.m	Several matters
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	General discussion
12:30	Lunch
01:30 p.m	Conclusions and recommendations
03:00	Coffee break
03:30	Final report
04:30	Closure of the meeting

RESOLUTION I

REGIONALIZATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WHEREAS:

There is a need to characterize foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) on a regional basis in order to achieve greater success in eliminating it from South America;

The countries have epidemiological information and methods required for the identification of FMD ecosystems; and

Several countries have already prepared the corresponding information, the rest being in the final stages of compilation,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To assume the commitment of developing programs with the short-range objective of eliminating the disease from important areas as part of a process that will move ahead toward full eradication of FMD from the continent.
2. To utilize the compiled data so that decisive information will soon be available on which to base and make the required decisions.
3. To continue requesting assistance from the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center for the attainment of this objective.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)

RESOLUTION II

COURSE IN ANIMAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS:

A need continues to exist, as expressed in previous meetings, for the adequate training of professional veterinarians in the Administration of Animal Health Programs;

Good results were achieved from the first such course developed in 1978 by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in conjunction with the United Nations Development Program and the Getulio Vargas Foundation,

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

RESOLVES:

To request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center continue to offer this type of training on a priority basis, emphasizing the development of foot-and-mouth disease control policies and strategies required by the decision to eliminate the disease from important areas as a basis for its eventual eradication from the Continent.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)

RESOLUTION III

SUPPLY OF VACCINES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
CREATION OF A VACCINE BANK

WHEREAS:

The majority of South American countries that produce foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccines are restricted by their governments from exporting vaccines because of their own respective domestic requirements;

Some countries have encountered difficulties in acquiring supplies of vaccines to meet the needs of their systematic vaccination programs and/or to cope with epidemics that endanger livestock raising and the stability of the FMD control campaigns;

A suitable solution to the problem must be found through a system for supplying FMD vaccines in sufficient quantities and quality to ensure their availability in emergencies; and

This Commission is aware that the European Economic Community has offered support to the countries in FMD control,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) produce concentrated antigens for the immediate preparation of FMD vaccines, in order to provide for timely supplies with which to solve emergency situations.
2. To recommend that the PAFMDC draw up a project to establish and implement an FMD Vaccine Bank to be located at and under the responsibility of the Center.
3. To request that the European Economic Community, within its project for cooperation with Latin American countries, consider support activities related to the creation of an FMD Vaccine Bank.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)

RESOLUTION IV

PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF OIL-ADJUVANTED VACCINE

WHEREAS:

In some member countries pilot plans are being developed involving foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) immunization of cattle using oil-adjuvanted vaccine, the use of which it is desirable to expand;

Having become aware of the project for production of oil-adjuvanted vaccine in Brazil with the technical cooperation of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC); and

Having been pleased to observe that this initiative is an application of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the solving of mutual problems,

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

RESOLVES:

To request that the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the PAFMDC develop this project as quickly as possible and, once the vaccine is produced, allow its eventual distribution to the COSALFA member countries requiring it.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)

RESOLUTION VII

WORK OF THE PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

WHEREAS:

The member countries gave their support to Resolution IV of COSALFA/6 on the occasion of the RICAZ/XII;

The directing bodies of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) approved only the restorative budget up to 31 December 1980 and subordinated approval of the supplementary budget to the Report of the External Evaluation Committee designated by the Director of the PAHO; and

This circumstance limits the technical cooperation services that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) has been rendering to the countries,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that RIMSA/1 encourage the directing bodies of the PAHO to give their approval to both the restorative and increased budgets of the PAFMDC for the 1980-1981 operating period, as approved in Resolution II of the RICAZ/XII.
2. To acknowledge the effective work that the PAFMDC has been developing to the benefit of the member countries in their effort to control foot-and-mouth disease on the Continent.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)

RESOLUTION VI

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON RURAL COMMUNICATION AND
HEALTH EDUCATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH

WHEREAS:

The International Seminar on Rural Communication and Health Education in Animal Health, held at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center on March 17-19, 1980, successfully achieved the proposed objectives and developed subject matter well selected by the seminar speakers,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the aforesaid Seminar and request the national and international bodies to implement them in support of foot-and-mouth disease control programs.
2. To thank the Pan American Health Organization for having organized and developed the International Seminar on Rural Communication and Health Education in Animal Health Programs, and, in particular, express its gratitude to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

(Approved at the VIIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 21 March 1980)