



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

X INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND ZONOSSES CONTROL

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A., 14-17 MARCH 1977

Provisional Agenda Item 18

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

Report of the Fourth Regular Session

COSALFA IV

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COSALFA IV

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

IV REGULAR SESSION

FINAL REPORT

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10-11 February 1977

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

IV REGULAR SESSION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 10-11 February 1977

FINAL REPORT

The IV Regular Session of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held on 10 and 11 February 1977 at the headquarters of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and had before it the agenda annexed to the present report (Annex I).

The meeting was attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and observers from Canada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement. A complete list of the participants is attached (Annex II).

The meeting opened at 9:15 a.m. on 10 February with a welcoming address by the Director of the Center, who expressed the hope that the work would lead to a fruitful interchange of experiences in support of the campaign against vesicular diseases in the Hemisphere.

In accordance with the alphabetical order laid down in the Statute for the chairmanship, the task of presiding over the meeting fell to the Representative of Chile, Dr. Isaac Eck Degen, who opened the first session of the meeting.

The Secretary ex officio, Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, referred to the mechanics of the meeting, giving an account of the action taken in compliance with the resolutions of the previous meeting, namely (1) Seminar on the Evaluation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs, which had been held on the three previous days; (2) oil vaccine; (3) vesicular stomatitis; (4) control of movement of animals; and (5) areas free of foot-and-mouth disease. For these topics the Center prepared and distributed documents to serve as a basis for the discussions. The report of the Secretariat was submitted and approved without comment.

The Representative of Nicaragua asked that the study of the status of vesicular stomatitis be extended to cover not only the South American countries but the countries of Central America free of foot-and-mouth disease. The Director of the Center suggested that the problem be dealt with at the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control (RICAZ), and that express mention be made of the proposal put forward by the observer for Nicaragua.

Next, the Under-Secretary for Agriculture of El Salvador made a short statement, noting that the VII International Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was to be held in June 1977 in San Salvador, stressing its importance and urging the representatives of the various countries to use their good offices to ensure that their Ministers attended.

On the subject of vesicular stomatitis, the Representative of Ecuador said that in his opinion the requirements of the pertinent resolution of the III Meeting of COSALFA had not been implemented. The Director of the Center explained what PAFMDC had accomplished up to the present to help the countries, mentioning the study of samples from Central America and Panama and the South American countries where the disease was found; the recent seminar on the diagnosis of vesicular diseases; the training of professionals; the supply of sera to the countries; and the standardization of diagnostic methods, in particular the study now being carried out at the Center on a large number of samples from El Salvador. He also pointed out that a decision was still pending concerning the headquarters of the laboratory for the diagnosis of vesicular diseases in Central America, a project which enjoyed the approval of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The laboratory was to be set up in the Central American region and would have consultant services for the countries of the area. The Director underlined the shortage of human and material resources to be devoted to studies of vesicular stomatitis, both research and field studies, for the purpose of learning more about the disease and its distribution. The Representative of Nicaragua said that his Government would be happy to have the laboratory in question located in his country.

All the participants gave accounts of what was being done in their respective countries in the matter of vesicular stomatitis, and were in agreement that there were many unknown factors to be cleared up in regard to the disease, especially its epidemiology and pathogenicity and the difficulty of producing a stable vaccine. All likewise agreed that vesicular stomatitis foci were dealt with in exactly the same way as if they were foot-and-mouth disease. The Latin American countries were obviously dependent on laboratory confirmation. The Representative of Brazil suggested that at the forthcoming RICAZ Meeting the question might be raised of the need to provide the Center with the necessary funds to carry out studies in the field of vesicular stomatitis.

After a short recess, the session was resumed and took up the discussion of the oil vaccine project submitted by the Center. The document was fully supported by the participants, following explanations concerning national counterpart resources for the work being done in the countries and the urgent need, expressed by the Representative of Ecuador, to try to shorten the four-year time schedule. The Director of the Center explained that work had already begun, in cooperation with Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela, and that arrangements with Colombia seemed likely. The

Representative of Argentina gave some particulars of action connected with the Henderson pilot plan, especially in regard to vaccine production. The Representative of Brazil suggested that the Center should as soon as possible make available to the countries all the available technology concerning oil vaccines so as to make rapid headway. All the representatives agreed that the project should be submitted to RICAZ to gain its support and obtain funds, which would involve attracting the interest of international financing agencies. The Director of the Center assured the meeting that the Center would continue to advise the countries in deciding what approach they should take in regard to national or private laboratories, and said that a complete evaluation would first have to be made.

It was explained that there were reasons for proceeding with some caution, the chief one being that there were still points requiring more thorough study, such as secondary reactions, control of potency, viscosity and its relationship with immunity, availability of raw materials in the country, etc.

The Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank asked for the floor to state that the Bank was carrying out an ongoing analysis of loans for animal health. Even though a number of adverse or limiting factors had been detected in what had been done up to the present, the Bank was open to new ideas and was prepared to support new projects, especially projects involving evaluation. He spoke of the Bank's contribution to personnel training for vaccine production and its desire that trained professionals should continue to exercise their particular skills in their own countries.

The next subject to be taken up was that of attenuated live virus. Views were expressed by the Representatives of Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile, who pointed out that it seemed anomalous to continue to do research on attenuated live virus vaccine when the meat exporting countries hardly made use of them. Chile stated that it had no interest in the matter because of the success of its campaign against foot-and-mouth disease using inactivated vaccine, and the fact that it was now in a phase concerned mainly with the prevention of the disease.

On the next topic, quarantine stations, the Representative of Canada was given the floor and described the procedures used by Canada to import breeding animals from the European continent (France, Austria, Switzerland, West Germany, Denmark, Poland and Belgium). He said that since 1966 about 6,000 animals had been imported without any problem. Because of the world cattle raising crisis, in 1976 only 164 animals had been imported, at a cost of \$7,000 to \$8,000 per head, and the prospects for the current year were uncertain. He offered assistance to the countries of the Region by way of in-service training in the Canadian quarantine stations, and also advice on the design and planning of stations and operational procedures. The Chairman thanked Dr. Reid for his statement and adjourned the session for lunch.

The session resumed at 1:30 p.m. to take up the next topic, control of the movement of animals. The Representative of Uruguay explained the system used in his country, where a special agency for livestock control worked in conjunction with the animal health services, the police and local committees recognized by the Law. The Representative of Colombia argued that if vaccination were increased, there would be less risk involved in the movement of animals and in marts and fairs. Other representatives described the procedures in their own particular countries, stressing the problem of lengthy cattle drives in certain areas and illegal animal movements, especially along frontier lines. The Representative of Brazil suggested that a resolution be adopted making it obligatory at cattle fairs to have facilities for the isolation and maintenance of diseased herds. Dr. Rosenberg argued that the most important point in the control of animal movements was to prevent the spread of disease, and control must therefore be based on the epidemiological conditions of the region. This argument was supported by the Representative of Venezuela, who maintained that the strategy for cattle movement control should be based on the peculiarities of the region, the type of transport, and the purpose or destination of the animals.

Dr. Eck, Chile, said that in his country herds in transit were accompanied by a document, and that the only destination allowed was from the fair to the slaughterhouse or the farm, ruling out all transit from one fair to another. From a fair, cattle could only be taken to the slaughterhouse or to a farmstead.

Dr. Suttmoller described the system used a few months earlier on the occasion of the most recent cattle show at Esteio, in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and Dr. de Freitas added a few further details, stressing the success achieved with the measures adopted at an important international cattle show.

The Representative of IDB expressed concern as to whether the necessary infrastructure existed for intercountry control, even though there were conventions between the countries for the control of animal transit. The Representative of Argentina said that if there were agreements which for one reason or another did not function, the meeting of COSALFA provided the opportunity to put them into operation.

When the discussion closed, the Representative of Paraguay asked for consideration of the document prepared by the Center, and it was unanimously approved.

After a short recess the session resumed, taking up the item "areas free of foot-and-mouth disease." A document prepared by the Center was placed before the meeting, and some representatives suggested that it might be desirable to postpone discussion of the document, in view of the meeting to be held shortly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, sponsored by the Organization of

American States. The Director of the Center explained that the document had been drawn up at the request of RICAZ, and its purpose was to determine the requirements for disease-free areas short of the various criteria for the "disease-free" declaration. After a short discussion, the conclusion was reached that the document constituted nothing more than guidelines for application by the countries and should in due course be supplemented by regulations and procedures in keeping with the characteristics of the various areas.

The Representative of Paraguay requested that the document be approved as it stood and that each individual country adjust the regulations and procedures according to its needs. All the representatives expressed their views, which in brief amounted to the approval of the document without prejudice to the possibility of subjecting it to a more thorough analysis at later meetings.

The Representative of Brazil pointed out that the document was restricted to structural matters and that it would be necessary in due course to discuss rules on how to proceed. The document was put to the vote and approved, without prejudice to its possible discussion at the forthcoming RICAZ X and Buenos Aires meetings.

The meeting arose at 4:30 p.m. and was resumed on the following day.

The next session took place on 11 February at 9:30 a.m. The Secretariat read out the communications received from various persons and bodies unable to attend the meeting and explaining why, expressing good wishes for the success of the deliberations and requesting to be sent the final documents issuing from the meeting.

The next topic for consideration was the draft of the document "Status of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs" prepared by the Center for RICAZ X, on the basis of reports sent in by the countries. Subject to a few drafting changes, it was unanimously approved.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the Evaluation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs, held from 7 to 9 February 1977, were then read out; a few drafting changes were introduced, to be put into shape by the Secretariat, and the document was unanimously approved.

The Chairman next gave the floor to Dr. William Moulton, of the Veterinary Service of the United States of America, who gave an account of the machinery for bibliographical information on exotic diseases used by the Service, and offered the use of it to any country which might be interested.

The Representative of Brazil then described the situation created by the importation of a consignment of bovines, presumably coming from Rhodesia, and unloaded in Asunción, Paraguay, where the Paraguayan authorities had taken strict sanitary measures to isolate and quarantine the animals. The Commission took note of the episode and decided to request the Center to obtain the necessary information with a view to making recommendations to the Paraguayan Government as to the best way to proceed in order to solve the problem.

The Chairman next gave the floor to the Representative of Chile to describe the progress made in regard to declaring the extreme south of Chile a disease-free area. Dr. Eck gave an account of the measures adopted and the results obtained.

The meeting set up committees to draft conclusions, seven of which were read out and approved.

The Representative of Colombia placed before the Commission a draft which was unanimously approved (Resolution VIII). All the resolutions are reproduced at the end of this report.

In his concluding remarks, the Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved. The meeting had fully served its purpose, and he urged all those present to give support in their respective countries to the resolutions adopted during the meeting. He thanked the participants, the observers and the staff of the Center for their devotion to their duties and for their cooperation. He then declared the business of the Fourth Regular Session of COSALFA completed.

Finally, Dr. Casas, bidding farewell to the participants, expressed the hope that these meetings would produce new ideas for advancing the campaign against vesicular diseases and that, as time went on, new approaches would be found to the common task in which all the countries were engaged. He wished the participants a safe return to their homes and his best personal wishes.

RESOLUTION I

AREAS FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

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

Bearing in mind that Resolution VI of the IX Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Zoonoses (RICAZ IX) held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 5 to 8 April 1976, recommends a definition of the criteria to be required before an affected area of a country can be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease; and

Considering that in compliance with this recommendation the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, has prepared a document which it presented to this Commission for analysis,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

To approve the document "AREAS FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE" (January 1977) as guidance for discussion of the topic during RICAZ X.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION II

CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENTS OF ANIMALS AND THE CAMPAIGN
AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

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

Bearing in mind that resolution IV of the III Regular Session of COSALFA requests the Pan American Health Organization to carry out a study on animal movements; and

Considering that the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, has prepared and submitted to this Commission for examination a document whose object is to evaluate and recommend the systems for controlling the movements of cattle most efficient and most appropriate for the various countries,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the conclusions submitted in the document "CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENTS OF ANIMALS AND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE."
2. To make frontier health agreements effective, with a view to the inclusion in them, among other things, of the movement of animals in those regions.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

RESOLUTION III

OIL VACCINE

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

Considering the need for a foot-and-mouth disease vaccine giving solid immunity for a longer period;

Considering the satisfactory results achieved by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in its tests carried out with oil vaccine; and

Considering that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has a project on inactivated oil-adjuvant vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the project presented by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.
2. To recommend that the document in question be submitted for consideration to the forthcoming RICAZ Meeting.
3. To recommend to the countries that they give the necessary support for the development of the project in question.
4. To request the international organizations to provide the financing needed for its development.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION IV

SEMINAR ON THE EVALUATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CONTROL PROGRAMS

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

Considering that in implementation of Resolution I of the III Regular Session of COSALFA, held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 1 and 2 April 1976, the first Seminar on the Evaluation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs has been held; and

Considering the success achieved by that Seminar, which pinpointed the technical-administrative and financial factors which have an adverse effect on the normal development of foot-and-mouth disease control programs,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the conclusions emerging from the first Seminar on the Evaluation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs held at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 7 to 9 February 1977.
2. To urge once more the Pan American Health Organization to hold annual meetings for the evaluation of foot-and-mouth disease control programs.
3. To request the Pan American Health Organization to ensure that the next annual meeting on evaluation of foot-and-mouth disease control programs concentrate on matters relating to the administration of programs.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION V

ATTENUATED LIVE VIRUS VACCINES

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

Considering the need to continue the research on new immunogens to improve the protection against foot-and-mouth disease; and

Considering the new focus of the research carried out by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in connection with attenuated live virus,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center that it continue its research on attenuated live virus vaccine.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION VI

VESICULAR STOMATITIS

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

Considering that vesicular stomatitis interferes with the programs for foot-and-mouth disease control, causing considerable loss among cattle;

Considering that vesicular stomatitis is being spread in areas regarded up to the present as disease-free;

Considering that basic aspects of the pathogenicity and epidemiology of the disease are unknown; and

Considering that Resolution III of the III Regular Session of COSALFA, held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 1 and 2 April 1976, requested the Pan American Health Organization to promote and carry out research on this disease,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Pan American Health Organization to provide the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center with adequate technical personnel and financial resources to enable it to implement Resolution III of the III Regular Session of COSALFA.

2. To request the Pan American Health Organization to draw up a research project with a view to learning more about the pathogenicity and epidemiology of vesicular stomatitis in coordination with the member countries of COSALFA and OIRSA affected by the disease, with a view to establishing adequate systems of control.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION VII

STRENGTHENING OF THE RESOURCES OF THE
PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

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

Considering the conclusions of the Seminar on the Evaluation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs in South America held from 7 to 9 February 1977, indicating the need for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to intensify its action on the various factors leading to the achievement of the goals fixed in the programs being carried out in the countries,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

To suggest to RICAZ X that the economic and human resources of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center need to be increased in order to enable it to cope effectively with what is required of it at various levels.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

COSALFA/4

RESOLUTION VIII

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE DIRECTOR OF
THE PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

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

Considering the valuable technical contribution, personal involvement and dedication with which Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga has assisted the participants in his capacity as Secretary ex officio of COSALFA,

At its IV Regular Session

RESOLVES:

To express thanks and gratitude to Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga for the work accomplished during the period in which he served as Secretary ex officio of COSALFA at the meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 10-11 February 1977.

(Approved on 11 February 1977)

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

IV REGULAR SESSION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 10-11 February 1977

PROGRAM OF SESSIONS

Thursday, 10 February

09:00 - 09:30	Opening session
09:30 - 10:30	Report by the Secretariat
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	Discussion of the report
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:30	Control of movements of animals
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 - 16:30	Areas free of foot-and-mouth disease

Friday, 11 February

09:00 - 10:30	General discussion
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30	Conclusions and recommendations
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:30	Final report
15:30 - 17:00	Final report and closure

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

IV REGULAR SESSION

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 10-11 February 1977

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