



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Willemstad, Curaçao, N.A., 17-20 April 1979

Provisional Agenda Item 13

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

Report of the Sixth Regular Meeting

COSALFA VI

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COSALFA VI

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

VI ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - March 15-16, 1979

FINAL REPORT

The VIth Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held on March 15th and 16th, 1979, at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The program and agenda of matters discussed are presented in Appendix I hereof.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; observers also came from Canada, Guyana, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

In accordance with the Commission's by-laws, the Paraguayan representative, Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, chaired the meeting and welcomed all the participants in the name of the PAFMDC. He also underscored the success of the Seminar on Regional Strategies for the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign, which had been held during the three days preceding the COSALFA Meeting and during which the accomplishments of the national foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) programs and the direction of future actions planned had been analyzed.

The Chairman then submitted the Meeting Agenda, which was approved without alteration.

Before proceeding with the official business of the meeting, the Chairman requested a minute of respectful silence in memory of Dr. Raymond Capilouto, the Argentine veterinarian who had been the IDB sector chief for the FMD programs, working at the office in Quito, Ecuador. Dr. Abraham Arce, IDB veterinarian from Washington, D.C., spoke briefly about the deceased Dr. Capilouto, emphasizing his efforts and concern for improving animal health programs in the Americas.

Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, ex-officio secretary, then read the secretary's report. The matters under consideration were the following:

Consultation among the member countries concerning authorization for the participation of observers to the meeting; the response was favorable.

Invitation to Guyana and Suriname to join the Commission; Guyana manifested interest in being admitted.

Compliance with the Resolutions adopted at COSALFA-5:

Resolution I: concerning vesicular disease information systems. All the countries complied with the Resolution, although some did so in an irregular or partial manner. Uruguay omitted the information on FMD virus types and subtypes.

Resolution II: the Seminar on Regional Strategies for FMD Campaigns, which was held at the PAFMDC in Rio de Janeiro on March 12-14, 1979, and whose conclusions and recommendations will be presented later.

Resolution III: vesicular stomatitis. The project in Brazil was only partially developed, owing to the shortage of funds. Two serological studies were made in the municipality of Espinosa, State of Minas Gerais. Information was presented to the effect that vesicular stomatitis studies are underway in Colombia, but the details of the experiments are unknown.

Resolution IV: the problem of cattle imported from Rhodesia. The Center requested the health legislation on importation existing in the countries, which served as a basis for the preparation of a document that will be presented during the discussion of miscellaneous matters. About this problem of Rhodesia cattle, the Center received a consultation from Brazil about importing meat from Paraguay, which was forwarded to the countries; the response was unanimous to the effect of sustaining point 1 of Resolution IV of the 5th COSALFA Meeting.

Additionally, the Center received a letter from the Paraguayan Minister of Agriculture, containing information about the health measures applied to the animals from Rhodesia and the issuance of a decree prohibiting the importation of animals from countries where exotic diseases are known to exist. The letter was circulated to all member countries.

Resolution V: Course on Animal Health Administration. In conjunction with the Getúlio Vargas Foundation, the PAFMDC prepared a project that was submitted to the consideration of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Brazilian Secretariat of Planning for International Economic Cooperation (SUBIN). Available feedback indicates good perspectives for administering the course during the third quarter of the current year. The countries were asked to express their interest and several have replied positively.

Resolution VI: oil-adjuvanted vaccines. A project was outlined for preparation of an oil vaccine guide. The overall aspects are available, but the specific details are still in preparation.

Resolution VII: standardization of FMD vaccine control methods. Based on the Center's International Seminar on Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccines, held in Buenos Aires from October 23 to November 3, 1978, with the valuable cooperation of the Argentine government, the general vaccine control manual was revised and is currently in the process of being published. A questionnaire was circulated among the countries to evaluate the efficiency of vaccine control testing by national laboratories. Most of the countries responded quickly.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie, the representative from Guyana, then mentioned the communication received from the Center and ratified his Government's desire to join the COSALFA.

The delegate from Brazil manifested his full support and mentioned that Guyana's admission and participation in COSALFA had been considered desirable, at the Roraima-Venezuela-Guyana Agreement meeting held in Boa Vista.

The Chairman submitted the matter to the consideration of the remaining delegates, and the vote was unanimously favorable. The delegate from Guyana was invited to take a chair at the table. The Chairman then submitted the Report of the Secretary to the consideration of the Commission, which gave its approval.

Dr. Roberto Goić presented a summary of the status and situation of FMD control programs in South America in 1978, emphasizing the high degree of disease control achieved by some countries and the favorable perspective with which the continent can regard the goal of eradication. This presentation was complemented by comments from each of the delegates from the countries about the strategies utilized and the modifications presently being planned.

Dr. Abraham Arce then took the floor to emphasize the comments made by Dr. Goić about the favorable situation in the countries and the possibility of conducting the programs more objectively. He also commented on the evaluation that the IDB is making of the programs, which will be concluded in mid-1979. He stressed that failures and successes are unpredictable when dealing with biological problems, and ended by expressing his satisfaction and offering his congratulations for the accomplishments attained.

Dr. Pedro Acha inquired whether the present situation reflects attainment of the goals set up vis-à-vis the accomplishments attained in the investments made. He mentioned that some specialists believe that the results so far obtained seem to indicate that control and eradication of FMD in South America is not a remote possibility, but that campaign strategies must be reformulated and resources strengthened to achieve definite results over the short term.

All the delegates responded that the scheduled targets have been reached at different levels of the programs, and they stressed that the experience thus acquired will lead to better planning and execution. An analysis was made of several aspects of the programs that have achieved the best results, such as vaccine quality control, animal movement control, regionalization, systematic vaccination, upgrading and improvement of veterinary services, health education and information.

The afternoon session on the 15th of March began with the presentation of the topic "Evaluation of the Information System" by Dr. Vicente Astudillo. The proposal in favor of extending the information reporting time limit from 20 to 30 days was upheld.

Dr. Pedro Acha pointed out the importance of the vesicular disease information system at the continental and extracontinental levels, stressing that it is one of the most significant accomplishments in terms of being able to evaluate and orient FMD control and eradication programs.

Dr. Astudillo informed the participants that Guyana will join the epidemiological surveillance system.

Next, the Secretary read the recommendations and conclusions of the Seminar on Regional Strategies for FMD Campaigns, which were approved.

Dr. Casas spoke about the forwarding of virus strains to the Center and exhorted the countries to continue sending in regularly the strains active in the different countries, so that the Center, as Reference Laboratory for the Americas, can perform the serological and immunological analyses and keep both the countries and the World Reference Laboratory informed.

With the object of discussing the situation of the Rhodesia cattle, Dr. Romero asked the Peruvian representative to assume the chairmanship of the Meeting. A letter from the Minister of Agriculture of Paraguay was then read, in which he indicated the quarantine measures that had been taken and the issuance of a decree regulating the importation of animals from countries known to have exotic diseases. Dr. Romero finally requested that the countries lift their restrictions on importation of cattle and fresh meat from Paraguay.

All the countries --except Bolivia and Colombia, due to the absence of sufficient information at the moment-- manifested their approval for COSALFA to recommend that the countries suspend their restrictions based on the length of time that the animals had been in observation and on health measures that had been taken.

Dr. Romero then again assumed the chairmanship and asked the delegates to decide what miscellaneous topics should be discussed.

The first matter was Ecuador's importation of fighting bulls from Spain. The ex-officio Secretary read letters from the Colombian Minister of Agriculture in which he manifested apprehension and concern about said importations; and a letter of reply from the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, in which he clarified that the imports had been effected after due examination and inspection measures in the animals' home country, and also included quarantine measures in Ecuador, adapted to the local conditions.

The delegate from Colombia reaffirmed his country's uneasiness and stated that import requests have been denied in Colombia and that they will be granted only when safety measures are completely ensured through the Barranquilla quarantine station.

The Ecuadorian delegate then enlarged upon the information by explaining the causes that justified the imports, such as the genetic upgrading of fighting bulls and the need to satisfy the recreational requirements of the Ecuadorian people. He indicated that the bull-fighting arena in Quito was

used for quarantine purposes. He also mentioned that the new quarantine station built in Esmeraldas is also available for quarantine purposes.

The meeting was closed at 16:30 and reopened at 9:15 on March 16 with remarks by Dr. Pedro Acha, who referred to the RICAZ-XII and recommended that the delegates encourage the Ministers of Agriculture to participate in the meeting, that they study the upcoming program and budget of the PAFMDC and that they attend with a defined position, since at the RICAZ-XII the Center budget will be submitted, together with an analysis of its funding and a proposal for increasing the quotas to allow the Center to reinvigorate and expand its activities, and the Meeting should give its approval. He also mentioned that the Meeting will analyze point 4 of Resolution XIX of the Pan American Health Conference Meeting that was held in September/October, 1978, in Grenada, at which the Director of the Pan American Health Organization was asked to study the possibility of transferring the Center over to an international organization in the agriculture sector. In October, 1978, the PAHO Director sent a copy of that resolution and a letter of consultation to the Ministers of Agriculture of Organization member countries.

Dr. Nelson Magallanes presented the document "Legislation on importation of animals in South America", which will be printed and distributed later.

Next, the delegate from Brazil brought up the problem of restrictions that neighboring countries had imposed as a result of the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. The restrictions covered other animal species and their products, and he asked that consideration be given to a revision of the restrictions affecting trade. He clarified that after the appearance of ASF the Brazilian authorities had prohibited exports of swine and pork products to all countries.

The delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay acknowledged the severity of the initial measures to prevent the introduction of ASF. All agreed to recommend that their governments consider revising those measures, and mentioned that some products are being withdrawn from the list of restrictions.

The delegates were then invited to prepare projects for resolution. Nine resolutions were submitted and approved; they are included in Appendix III.

The Meeting was closed at 16:30 with the words of the Chairman praising the accomplishments. He then thanked the delegates, the observers from other countries and international organizations, and the Director, administrative and veterinary staffs of the PAFMDC, for their distinguished and decisive participation.

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

VI ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 15-16, 1979

PROGRAM

Thursday 15

09:00	Opening Session
09:15	Report of the Secretary
09:45	Discussion of the Report
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Report: Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America. 1978
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Regional Strategies for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
14:30	Coffee Break
15:00	Miscellaneous Topics

Friday 16

09:00	General Discussion
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Conclusions & Recommendations
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Final Report
15:00	Coffee Break
15:30	Approval of Final Report & Closing of the Meeting

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

VI ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 15-16, 1979

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RESOLUTION I

ADMISSION OF GUYANA TO COSALFA

WHEREAS:

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted at COSALFA/5, the ex-officio Secretary had invitations sent to the Governments of Guyana and Suriname, inviting them to join the Commission, and

The observer from Guyana to this Meeting did express his Government's wish to become a member of this Commission,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To admit Guyana, by unanimous accord, to effective membership in the COSALFA, pursuant to Articles III and VIII of the By-laws;
2. To request that the ex-officio Secretary proceed as may be required by the Government of Guyana to formalize the request for admission.

(Approved at the VIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 16 March 1979)

RESOLUTION II

CHARACTERIZATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

WHEREAS:

The conclusions and recommendations made by the XLII Seminar of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center on Regional Strategies for the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 12-14, 1979, to indicate that:

The need exists for an overall assessment of the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease programs in South America, whose objective shall be to consolidate the results thus far obtained, in order to maintain and extend the disease-free areas and the overall control of the disease and to accelerate the process leading to the goal of eradication, and

Said process be based fundamentally on epidemiological characterization of foot-and-mouth disease in each country and at the continental level,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the member countries effect a characterization study of the foot-and-mouth disease ecosystems, with special attention to the areas that would be responsible for the persistence and spread of the disease;
2. To request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center prepare and provide, with all possible haste, the guidelines required to lend uniformity to the study;
3. To suggest that countries sharing common foot-and-mouth disease ecosystems hold technical meetings with coordination provided by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center;
4. To urge the countries to present the results of said studies at the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

(Approved at the Vith Ordinary
Meeting held on 16 March 1979)

RESOLUTION III

EVALUATION OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

WHEREAS:

The COSALFA member countries understand that the development of their programs unquestionably requires the maintenance of a continental epidemiological surveillance system for foot-and-mouth disease and other vesicular diseases;

All the countries of the region now operate national information systems organized on common principles to support the foot-and-mouth disease control programs, and

The evaluation of the continental information system in the COSALFA/6 reflected problems in the timeliness and completeness of the information forwarded,

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

RESOLVES:

1. That the Member Countries assume the commitment of forwarding correct, complete epidemiological information to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, in accordance with the Center's schedule and following specifications:

- a) Weekly, by telex, the codes of the grids on the country map where the presence of vesicular disease has been clinically identified; this information shall be forwarded to the Center immediately after the close of the week reported;
- b) Monthly, utilizing a standard form, the total number of affected herds, with samples of material and according to virus types and administrative and political division. On the back of this report shall appear a grid map of the country on which the virus types shall be marked according to a common code system; identified subtypes shall be mentioned at the bottom of the form. This information shall be sent to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Center by mail no later than 30 days after the end of the month reported.

(Approved at the Vith Ordinary
Meeting held on 16 March 1979)

RESOLUTION IV

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

WHEREAS:

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has effectively developed and extended technical cooperation in support of the foot-and-mouth disease control campaigns on the continent;

It is necessary to strengthen and impart flexibility to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center's monetary resources in order to increase its effectiveness in attaining its objectives, and

Resolution XIX was adopted by the XX Pan American Health Conference held in Grenada in September and October, 1978,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Pan American Health Organization that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center continue functioning within the structure of that Organization as part of the Animal Health Program;
2. To recommend that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center's work plan and budget for 1980 and 1981, which has been submitted to the consideration of the governments of the member countries, be analyzed and approved at the RICAZ-XII, to be held April 17-20, 1979, in Curaçao;
3. To acknowledge and recognize the effective work that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has developed in favor of the member countries in the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease on the Continent;
4. To request that the Pan American Health Organization review and examine the possibility of assigning other animal health activities to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

(Approved at the Vith Ordinary
Meeting held on 16 March 1979)

RESOLUTION V

CATTLE FROM RHODESIA

WHEREAS:

The importation and presence in Paraguay of cattle from Rhodesia has represented a serious hazard to livestock health in the Americas;

The period of time that has passed since their importation, the isolation measures adopted, the compliance with COSALFA/5 Resolution IV, Art. 3, and the fact that the health of the animals in question has given no cause for alarm nor adversely affected the native animals with which they have been in contact, and

In view of the communication from the Minister of Agriculture of Paraguay and the verbal explanation given by the Paraguayan delegate to COSALFA/6,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Member Countries adopt measures tending to normalize trade involving live cattle and animal products and by-products, with the Republic of Paraguay;
2. To request that the animal health authorities of Paraguay continue their control and surveillance on those establishments on which the Rhodesian cattle will be located;
3. To reiterate its recommendations that the Member Countries comply with existing dispositions concerning importation of livestock from countries where diseases exotic to the Americas are known to exist.

(Approved at the VIth Ordinary
Meeting held on 16 March 1979)

RESOLUTION VI

IMPORTATION OF FIGHTING BULLS FROM SPAIN

WHEREAS:

The potential health problem involved in the importing of fighting bulls from countries known to have diseases or foot-and-mouth disease viruses exotic to the countries of the Americas;

The matter is of direct interest to Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela, and of indirect interest to the remaining countries, and

This type of importation and the purpose of these animals require very special health control measures and handling procedures,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, proceed to examine the problem related to the entry of fighting bulls from Spain.
2. To draw up a work methodology and a health guide containing procedures that allow this activity to be conducted with the least possible health risk for these countries and the continent.

(Approved at the VIth Ordinary
Meeting held on March 16, 1979)

RESOLUTION VII

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

WHEREAS:

The Hemispheric Meeting on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and International Trade of Animals and Animal Products, sponsored by the Organization of American States and the Pan American Health Organization, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 1-7, 1978, stressed the necessity that animal health importation procedures be guided by reasonable and realistic technical and scientific criteria;

In the light of scientific knowledge the risk that African Swine Fever will be transmitted is limited to swine and unsterilized pork products, and

The present state of control of African Swine Fever in Brazil and the Brazilian Government's disposition to continue with efforts to eradicate the disease from that Nation,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the Member Countries limit their restrictions to swine and unsterilized pork products when importing animals and animal products from Brazil.

(Approved at the VIth Ordinary
Meeting held on March 16, 1979)

RESOLUTION VIII

COSALFA/6 REPORT AT RICAZ-XII

WHEREAS:

The Report of the VIth Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been included on the agenda of the Twelfth Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control, to be held in Willemstad, Curaçao, April 17-20, 1979, and

It is important that a close relationship be maintained between COSALFA and RICAZ, at whose Twelfth Meeting the two-year 1980/1981 program and budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center will be considered for approval, this institution being the ex-officio Secretariat of the Commission,

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

RESOLVES:

1. To be represented at the RICAZ-XII by the Paraguayan and Peruvian representatives to the COSALFA/6, as head and alternate representatives, respectively;
2. To ask the ex-officio Secretariat of the COSALFA to forward written communications to the Government of Paraguay and Peru, requesting the participation of their respective Commission representatives as members of the delegation to the RICAZ-XII.

(Approved at the VIth Ordinary
Meeting held on March 16, 1979)

RESOLUTION IX

HEALTH EDUCATION SEMINAR
FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS:

In view of the success of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center's XLII Seminar on Regional Strategies for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaigns, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 12-14, 1979, with the participation of all member countries of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and

Said meetings are important for the development of the foot-and-mouth disease programs and, in view of the necessity of evaluating the aspects related to the participation of the community,

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 hold a seminar in 1980 on health education and methods of encouraging and stimulating community participation in the foot-and-mouth disease control and eradication programs.

(Approved at the Vith Ordinary
Meeting held on March 16, 1979)