



COMISION SUDAMERICANA PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA FIEBRE AFTOSA

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

IX ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 11-12, 1982

FINAL REPORT

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The IX Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held on March 11-12, 1982, 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, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Observers were also present from the United States of America, Great Britain, Martinique, Suriname, as well as from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the International Office of Epizooties (OIE), the Mexican-American Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, the Cartagena Agreement Board, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (Appendix I).

In accordance with COSALFA statutes, Dr. Gustavo Manrique Londoño, the delegate from Colombia, assumed the meeting chairmanship. He welcomed the delegates and observers cordially and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to chair the meeting.

The agenda proposed by the Secretary, based on the recommendations of the COSALFA-VIII Meeting, was approved without alterations (Appendix II).

A. Report of the ex-officio Secretary. Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, Director of the PAFMDC and ex-officio Secretary of the COSALFA, then read a report on the following topics:

- Compliance with the resolutions of COSALFA-VIII.
- Other matters.

1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF COSALFA-VIII

Resolution I - Financial Aspects of the PAFMDC. This Resolution by the COSALFA-VIII originated the RIMSA II, Resolution V, which urges the countries to contribute voluntarily to strengthening the Center's budget. In particular, the Resolution requests that the Brazilian Government contribute to restoring and maintaining the Center's physical plant.

As a result of this Resolution, the Center received in 1981 a voluntary contribution from Brazil amounting to Cr\$ 2 million for the repair of damage caused to the physical plant during a storm. Additionally, in early 1982, Brazil contributed six million cruzeiros to upgrade the Center's facilities. The Center also was donated 300,000 sucres by the Government of Ecuador, equivalent to US\$ 8,800.00.

Dr. Mario V. Fernandes then informed the Meeting that the PAHO's action to obtain extrabudgetary funding from international technical and financial institutions would be discussed.

Resolution II - International commerce in animals and livestock products: The Center noted with great satisfaction that several of the countries in the region have been strictly complying with the sanitary procedures applicable in international commerce in animals and animal products. However, in view of the importance of this matter within the context of the efforts to control foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), the Secretary incorporated this topic as a specific matter on the agenda of the COSALFA-IX Meeting. Based on information provided by the member countries, and in order to facilitate the analysis of the pertinent legislation, the PAHO, through the PAFMDC, is preparing a monograph containing a summary of the laws and special regulations on animal health existing in the countries. This document is now in the final stage of review and will be available shortly. The Center also recently published and distributed a monograph written by Dr. Nelson Magallanes on "Legislation on the Importing of Animals in South America". The Andean Group countries have available a compilation of the Record and Subregional Index of Phyto and Zoosanitary Standards prepared by the Cartagena Agreement Board. Dr. Albert E. Lewis was contracted as short-term consultant to visit several of the countries in the region in order to evaluate the animal quarantine systems. The data he gathered during the mission have been compiled into an animal quarantine guidebook presently in the final phase of revision.

Resolution III - Regional laboratory for diagnosis of animal viral diseases. Although the COSALFA-VIII resolutions were approved in their totality by the RIMSA-II, Resolution VI, no decision in this respect has thus far been taken by the PAHO Directing Bodies.

The Center has consequently not drawn up any project on the matter due to the limited resources and the lack of authorization from the PAHO directing bodies and central level authorities.

Nevertheless, considering the most urgent aspects of differential diagnosis of animal viral diseases that may be confused with FMD, the Center is developing diagnostic capability for identifying infectious bovine rhynotracheitis (IBR), bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), blue tongue and bovine parainfluenza (PI₃). Dr. James House, of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), was contracted as a short-term consultant for this purpose; it was he who introduced the methodology for the diagnosis of the above viroses.

Resolution IV - Document on the facts and advances in foot-and-mouth disease programs over the 1971-1980 ten-year period. The preparation of this document is behind schedule, due to technical cooperation commitments with the countries and the cutbacks in professional staff. The first draft of the document is presently being revised and it is expected that it will be ready to be distributed to the countries for their consideration within the next 90 days. The countries are requested to examine the document carefully and incorporate any relevant fact in the development of the programs that may have been omitted or overlooked.

Resolution V - Strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in the 1981-1990 ten-year period. A revised version of the preliminary document entitled "Policies and Strategies for Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America for the 1981-1990 Ten-year Period" was forwarded to the countries on August 26, 1981.

The meeting agenda specifically lists the analysis and discussion of the document that had been revised at the Center, incorporating the remarks offered by the various countries. The document contains only basic aspects of the general guidelines of the FMD control strategy and policies that have received unanimous agreement. A summary of the countries' remarks and comments was also presented.

Resolution VI - Epidemiological information on African Swine Fever and Hog Cholera. Information on hog cholera and African swine fever is included by Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela in their regular vesicular disease epidemiological surveillance system. Although the Center receives this information regularly, it does not have any formal mechanism authorizing to transfer the information to the countries through the epidemiological reports on vesicular diseases.

In its Resolution One, RIMSA-II approved and adopted Resolution VI of COSALFA-VIII, to request that PAHO coordinate with other international agencies to establish at the PAFMDC a "Regional System of Surveillance and Information in Animal Health and Public Veterinary Medicine". This system would cover not only African swine fever and hog cholera but also such diseases as: rabies, equine encephalitis, brucellosis and other zoonoses. Up to the present date the Center is short of the resources required to comply with this resolution, and the discussions with other international agencies regarding setting up the system are pending decision and action by the central levels of the PAHO because implementation of the system is outside the scope of responsibility of the Center's director.

Resolution VII - International Seminar on Immunization Programs. In accordance with the recommendation made by COSALFA-VIII, a Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America was held this past March 8-10th. With respect to the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on Immunization, the following actions were taken during 1981:

With respect to creating a FMD vaccine bank, the Center is expanding its capacity to prepare antigen reserves for emergency vaccines by acquiring new equipment and expanding the vaccine cold-storage capability. Within the framework of the PAHO's agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, the production plant at the animal reference laboratory (LARA) in Campinas, inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture on February 10th, is being adapted for the production of oil-adjuvanted vaccine. The laboratory will commence production of the vaccine in 1982; according to the agreement, 15% of the production will be earmarked for the PAFMDC's technical cooperation programs.

Based on the exchange of professional staff with the USA's Plum Island Animal Disease Center, rapid progress was made in the development of techniques for virus concentration by ultracentrifugation and in methods for the determination of antigenic mass, 140S particle, and the identification of viral proteins (VP). The necessary equipment has been acquired and tested, and experiments are underway to determine the dynamics of concentrated virus inactivation. Favorable results have been attained and it is expected that within a short time the Center may commence the storage of inactivated and characterized concentrated antigens.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Uruguay, vaccines prepared with concentrated antigens were tested on bovines. It was shown that good potency vaccines can be prepared with antigens preserved in concentrated form.

The Center's output of oil-adjuvanted vaccine in 1981 totalled 1,500,000 doses that were used in demonstration areas under agreements with the official authorities in several countries. However, on several occasions the Center provided emergency vaccines especially prepared to be administered in risk situations. More than 100,000 doses of emergency vaccines were distributed during 1981.

In response to a request from the Agriculture and Livestock Service of Chile, the PAFMDC maintains a stock of 50,000 doses of Argentina A₇₉ monovalent antigen as a stand-by reserve for any risk situation that might occur in Chilean territory.

Moreover, the oil-adjuvanted vaccine field demonstration projects that are being carried out in several of the region's countries through cooperation with the PAFMDC have been largely successful. A document entitled "Evaluation of bovine vaccination projects using oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine from the PAFMDC" has been prepared and forwarded to the countries. Nevertheless, its application is quite recent in areas wherein the use of these vaccines assumes a priority character because of the disease's behaviour or because of livestock production characteristics. In 1981, the vaccination program was continued in the Federal Territory of Roraima where Brazil borders Guyana and Venezuela. An eradication plan was recently implemented in the

endemic area of San Martin in Peru and a demonstration program got underway in Monagas in eastern Venezuela, where 50,000 animals are involved. In early 1982 the PAFMDC delivered 60,000 doses to initiate the immunization plan in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso.

The delegates were reminded that the recommendations regarding vaccination of pigs, as approved at the 1981 International Immunization Seminar, should be kept in mind whenever proposals are analyzed for technical aid for the production and use of FMD vaccines in pigs.

With respect to FMD vaccine quality control, the delegates were asked to inform about the action taken to implement the recommendation about the need and advisability of having the FMD vaccine quality-control units depend on the Ministers of Agriculture in those countries where the control lies within the jurisdiction of the Public Health Ministry.

Regarding the recommendation about evaluation of the immunization programs, the delegates were informed that the Center, as it prepares the future programs of the seminars and field courses under the Animal Health Training Program in Latin American (PROASA), has borne in mind the need for training in evaluation techniques to ensure maximum compliance with these recommendations in the national programs.

The Center did not receive any technical cooperation request for the study and appraisal of the situation of the cold chain utilized to preserve and distribute the FMD vaccine. On the other hand, PAHO's Expanded Immunization Program was asked to provide the manual on cold chain techniques; the manual was distributed among the delegates at this meeting, who are asked to advise the COSALFA about this matter.

2. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

As a consequence of Resolution VII of COSALFA V (1978), the Center organized with the countries a test for standardization of diagnosis methods and, to each of the affected countries, it distributed reagents for testing of varying laboratory methods. The first stage of the tests was repeated in 1981 and the countries that still have not sent in their results are strongly urged to do so as soon as possible. The Secretary will distribute a chart presenting the current status of the works.

In response to the request for assistance that several South American countries affected by FMD made to the European Economic Community (EEC), the COSALFA-VII recommended in its Resolution V that "in order to effectively promote the required coordination, the countries should keep the COSALFA, through its Secretary, informed of the negotiations with the EEC in regard to scheduling and execution of the EEC-Latin American cooperation project".

In late 1980, the EEC mission visited Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, and is presently conducting a new visit to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. To date, neither the Center nor the COSALFA ex-officio Secretary has received from the EEC any report of the results of their first visit.

The result of those visits to the countries was included by Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay in their respective reports to COSALFA. Ecuador requested the EEC's support and cooperation in outfitting and training through scholarships, grants, and equipment and laboratory materials for diagnosis and research. Paraguay attached to the country report a copy of the memorandum forwarded by the President of SENACSA to the Minister of Agriculture, to advise him that the EEC was asked to provide a "high-level scientific specialist to conduct a complete study covering the ecology, epidemiology, communication systems, livestock transit control, detection of probable disease reservoirs in the western section of the country, to determine the diverse factors that have a negative impact on the efficient control of FMD". Equipment for the cell culture division, scholarships and 10 animal transit control stations were also requested.

SENACSA informed the members of the mission that any and all technical cooperation that the EEC could provide should be coordinated through the PAFMDC so that the cooperation might be likewise utilized by other countries of the area and also to avoid wasteful duplication.

Finally, the Uruguayan Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Board, in its report to COSALFA-IX, said that it had asked for EEC cooperation in developing mathematical models for simulation of the disease under different control strategies, measuring physical losses, evaluating various strategies intended to intensify control or achieve eradication of FMD, and estimating the capital required to equip the meatpacking industry.

The ex-officio Secretary reaffirmed the importance and advisability that such cooperation, more than welcome at this time when there is a shortage of economic resources in the region, be perfectly coordinated among the countries and with the PAFMDC. He likewise underscored COSALFA's great potential as defender of the interests and aspirations of the governments and peoples of the countries belonging to it.

Dr. Luigino Bellani, General Director of the Veterinary Services of Italy's Health Ministry, in a message responding to an invitation to participate in COSALFA-IX, included a document about reflections "for renewing the exportation of bovines and sheep and their meat from South America to Europe within the framework of the sanitary measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease".

The original version of that document was distributed among the Meeting delegates. The message highlights the suggestion of creating unaffected areas in South America to facilitate international trade in animals and animal

products, a suggestion that coincides with the policies and strategies established by the COSALFA member countries. The message also indicates that in Italy, the State has exclusive control of the production and application of vaccine.

As the delegates to this Meeting are aware, the Animal Health Training Program in South America (PROASA) has been approved and is currently being implemented. Financial assistance is provided by the PAHO and IDB. The PROASA includes a subprogram for training in the production, control and use of oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine; the PAFMDC is responsible for the courses and seminars under this subprogram, which will commence during the first week in June with the "Seminar on Dissemination of the Technical and Operational Mechanisms for the Utilization of Oil-Adjuvanted Vaccine in the South American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs".

The Secretary then informed the delegates that the Center had prepared two monographs during the year, one containing the RICAZ/RIMSAs resolutions pertaining to the PAFMDC, and the other including the COSALFA resolutions and the international seminars held prior to the COSALFA. The Center had also prepared a revised bibliography on swine vesicular disease. The bibliography is in the printing stage and will soon be mailed out to the countries.

The Secretary informed the Meeting that the Brazilian Government had always cooperated fully with the Center in allowing it to receive and send out biological products to the countries in the region. This courteous attitude on the part of the host country has certainly enabled the Center to carry out some of its more important endeavors and responsibilities.

More recently, however, the Center has been hampered in dispatching larger volumes of FMD vaccines as part of its technical cooperation involvement with the countries in the development of oil-adjuvanted vaccines. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently deemed that the size of the shipments makes them subject to export regulations; on certain occasions shipments of vaccines have been delayed by difficulties due to compliance with bureaucratic formalities and clearance procedures.

The Secretary therefore brought this situation to the attention of the COSALFA delegates because the Commission could request that the Brazilian Government allow the Center to ship vaccines to the other countries under the system formerly in effect.

Dr. Willem Droppers of the Dutch Embassy in Argentina, who was an enthusiastic and assiduous observer of the COSALFA meetings, has been transferred from the Embassy and returned to his home country. On his departure he addressed a letter to the COSALFA to highlight the importance of its activities.

The Chairman then submitted the ex-officio Secretary's report to the floor for discussion.

Regarding the requests for technical assistance addressed to the European Economic Community, the delegates had the following to say:

a) - Argentina indicated that they have received visits from several EEC technical commissions that have submitted their respective reports, and that to date no requests for technical cooperation have been made;

b) - Colombia received the report of the Technical Commission and forwarded a reply expressing its interest in technical cooperation, but has not yet received an answer. Colombia's communication to the EEC expressed the need that coordination should be handled through the PAFMDC;

c) - Paraguay has not received the Technical Commission's report, but has obtained two 3-month grants to train personnel in virology;

d) - Peru and Uruguay have forwarded assistance requests, but no answer has yet been received; they also stated that arrangements should be coordinated through the PAFMDC.

The Secretary explained that Ecuador had already sent the Center copies of the report and of the request for technical cooperation submitted to the EEC. He then asked that the countries forward a copy of the reports received for the Secretary's permanent file.

The IICA/OIE representative told the Meeting of his conversation with an EEC personnel member who informed him that the information gathered during the visits was being used to draw up a technical cooperation plan. The document has not yet been completed but will have to follow procedures for the allocation of the pertinent funding.

The director of the PAHO Special Animal Health Program then informed the delegates about the negotiations underway to obtain additional funds for the Centers. He first thanked Brazil and Ecuador for their voluntary contributions to the PAFMDC and Argentina and Ecuador for financial support to CEPANZO. He indicated that the PAHO Directing Council approved the document "Mechanism for obtaining extrabudgetary financial resources for the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonosis Centers", which had also been approved by the RIMSA-II in March, 1981. The document had already been sent out to various entities in order to receive the allocated contributions; replies had been received from some and others are studying the proposal. He indicated that the IDB replied and backed the proposal, and expressed that the support to the PROASA corresponded to the funding of the training of human resources under the plan. In this regard, he took advantage of the opportunity to thank the IDB on behalf of the PAHO, for this very important contribution.

He then gave a brief description of the PROASA objectives and plan of action, emphasizing the benefits that the Program will bring to the region.

He asked the delegates for their cooperation to ensure that the courses would be conducted, especially the field courses involving oil-adjuvanted vaccine that will require an input of national resources as the countries' share of the funding. He explained that this is the largest no-payback loan ever granted by the IDB since its founding, and said that the main goal is the institutionalization of the training activities. At the conclusion of the project, the teaching materials utilized will be distributed to the countries.

With respect to the aspects of coordination among the various international agencies active in the animal health field, he mentioned the discussions presently underway and the possibility that RIMSA and REDISA will be held in the same place at the same time of the year.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman submitted the ex-officio Secretary's report to the consideration of the Commission, which approved it unanimously.

B. Status of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Vesicular Disease Control Programs in South America.

The Chairman submitted for discussion the document on the subject prepared by the Center from the reports sent to COSALFA by each country. The document had been distributed among the participants prior to the Meeting.

One Center's staff member presented a short analysis indicating that the overall situation during the period in review had been favorable. No epidemic situations had been reported. He highlighted that the appearance of the C virus continues declining in several countries. With regard to the programs' overall status, problems of administrative and structural nature, which restrict greater efficiency and efficacy, are still noticed.

Another staff member examined the performance of the Epidemiological Surveillance and Information System, and indicated that there was a slight drop in the timely receiving of the weekly and monthly reports. He also discussed the studies on the appraisal of the epidemiological information and the manner in which it is being submitted in the bulletins and reports in terms of better utilization. He ended his presentation by asking the delegates to insist that the reports and communications be sent to the Center on time and to analyze and utilize the information continuously.

The Colombian delegate told the Meeting that studies of carriers and antibodies are being conducted on the Islands of San Andres and Providencia, where there have been no cases of vesicular disease, in order to determine whether this is a disease-free status. He also reported on the advances made by the Colombian Veterinary Products Company (VECOL). It has already installed the equipment to produce oil-adjuvanted vaccines and has produced experimental batches that are now being appraised.

The delegate from Argentina explained that his country's animal health service delivers the reports on time to CEPANZO/PAHO for forwarding to the Center, but that in the future the report will be telexed directly to the Center.

The delegates from Brazil, Peru and Venezuela explained the possible causes of their delays related to the size of the country, labor problems and calendar differences, respectively.

A staff member from the Center explained the information mechanism for disease-free countries like Chile; it consists of immediately forwarding news of any vesicular disease occurrence.

The IICA/OIE representative emphasized the value and importance of the information generated by the Vesicular Diseases Epidemiological Surveillance and Information System, which is widely acknowledged on the American continent and beyond it. He recommended that information on the resources utilized by the countries also be included, correlated with the advances made in the control of FMD.

The delegates unanimously approved the Report on the status of the vesicular disease and foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America.

C. Estimation of geographic risks

In the afternoon session a staff member from the PAFMDC made a presentation of how to utilize the basic information from the countries, as well as the results of the epidemiological surveillance system, to characterize the geographic risk of FMD occurrence. In particular he submitted results obtained by the PAFMDC in conjunction with technical personnel from the Uruguayan Service.

A representative from Chile then summarized the activities being carried out by his country, with cooperation from the PAFMDC, to characterize the geographic risk of FMD introduction at ports, airports and border areas. With respect to this last aspect he outlined the activities performed to date regarding characterization of the risk of reintroducing FMD and of introducing other exotic diseases via the summer grazing areas. The "a priori" conclusion was that the risk is minimal and there is an infrastructure capable of detecting the disease and preventing it from spreading into the valley.

The delegates then had an interesting exchange of information on the topic before taking up the following subject on the agenda.

D. Policy and strategies for foot-and-mouth disease control in South America in the 1981-1990 ten-year period

The Chairman of the meeting submitted to the delegates' consideration the document prepared by the PAFMDC in consultation with the COSALFA member countries.

The delegate from Argentina recommended that the document be approved, and that the mechanism be indicated for preparing the corresponding plans of action.

The Venezuelan delegate approved the document and suggested that the economic aspects involved be determined in order to facilitate political support and support of resources required to implement the recommended actions.

The delegate from Ecuador also approved the document. He suggested that each country draw up its specific plan of action, forwarding it to the PAFMDC for revision and consolidation of the national plans.

The delegate from Argentina suggested that recommendations like the one under examination would carry more weight if COSALFA had more political strength. He suggested that COSALFA seek to obtain official recognition from the governments through their respective foreign offices.

The IICA representative seconded the Argentine delegate's suggestion, especially to upgrade COSALFA's status and secure the additional resources that the FMD eradication phase will require. He reminded the delegates that the First Hemispheric Meeting on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and International Trade in Animals and Animal Products was unable to follow through on the resolutions by the Secretary of that meeting. He was therefore suggesting the institutionalization of COSALFA with delegation of power by the member governments.

The Chairman agreed with the need of securing political support to COSALFA. He said that the Colombian delegation approves the document, and that in his country the FMD control program receives all the political support required to implement the guidelines set forth in the document in question.

E. International animal trade

The Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center mentioned the trade antecedents from Brazil to Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and the USA, as well as the agreements established between Uruguay and Ecuador. Peru also built a new quarantine station that ensures the safe commercialization of animals. Chile and Cuba both have plans to build high-security quarantine stations. He referred to the exports of buffalos from

Brazil to Peru. The quarantining was done in an isolated region. All the corresponding virological and serological tests were conducted and the Center proceeded to send oil-adjuvanted vaccine to protect the animals. He drew attention to the plans for exports from Brazil to Ecuador and Peru, and insisted on the need for strict compliance with the sanitary requirements in order to prevent any risk of transmitting exogenous viruses to those countries.

The delegate from Bolivia spoke of the quarantine stations that have been planned for construction in different locations in that country.

The Colombian delegate thanked Brazil and the Center for their cooperation in the commercialization of animals, an endeavor carried out with complete success.

The delegate from Uruguay called attention to the fact that the processing of samples from export animals adds to the already heavy work load at the laboratory, and that expansion and additional resources are required so that the routine activities are not jeopardized.

The Center Director explained that the countries must prepare themselves to comply with the sanitary requirements of the export programs, and that the Center will continue to cooperate in training personnel. He also insisted on the need of having competent professional personnel familiar with the export sanitary requirements to supervise the exportation.

The Argentine delegate said that special care should be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic diseases into the continent, and that steps should be taken to ensure that the quarantine stations have adequate facilities and the support of a laboratory with capability to study the samples collected.

The Brazilian delegate said that his country is very willing to comply with the animal export requirements, and that Brazil can rely on the Cananéia quarantine station.

A researcher from the Center then informed about the latest studies on FMD virus carriers, a methodology that must be taken into consideration for the animal export programs.

F. Miscellaneous matters

The meeting Chairman, referring to what the delegate from Argentina had discussed the previous day, took up the need for COSALFA, in the future, to develop a more important role in the various aspects of coordinating the campaigns against FMD in South America. In this regard, the Commission ought to acquire recognition from the governments with a delegation of power through agreements signed by the respective foreign offices. He stated that this would be of major importance, considering that the FMD control campaigns in

South America should enter the disease eradication phase and, as agreed at the Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America should constitute the initial phase in each of the countries.

The Colombian delegate stated that if there is a consensus on the matter, then the Commission should debate the best means of accomplishing this objective.

After extensive discussion, it was agreed that it was indispensable for the countries' foreign offices to approve a protocol that would give the COSALFA a legal entity status as the coordinating body of the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South America. The steps to be taken to attain the proposed recognition were set forth in a draft for a resolution.

The Venezuelan delegate took the floor to point out the importance of the Andean Pact as an integrating force in the subregion. He recommended a close, permanent integration with the PAFMDC's activities, holding the Center as a Pan American technical cooperation and coordination entity within the context of vesicular diseases, and likewise encouraged close ties and coordination with COSALFA.

The Director of the PAHO Special Animal-Health Program then provided information on matters related to the development of genetically engineered FMD vaccine. He stated that the Scientific Advisory Committee at the PAFMDC had recommended the creation of a genetic engineering research unit. The PAHO is interested in creating this unit, but not restricted only to FMD vaccine; it would encompass other vaccines for use in both animals and humans, of interest to the countries. The creation of a job position for this purpose has already been given consideration within the program for the development of appropriate technology. Of course, the creation of such a unit will require funding and the countries will be notified in this regard so that they can respond about what is of interest to them. He likewise observed that one of the private companies in the USA that will produce the vaccine has been in contact with the PAHO and has requested its cooperation to conduct a research phase through the PAFMDC. The company considers the research indispensable for the development of the vaccine and its utilization at field level. This situation is even more favorable when it is remembered that the WHO Directing Council, at its last meeting, approved a directive establishing the requirements enabling the Organization to engage in agreements with private entities that are developing products for sale. The proposal made by the afore-mentioned company will be submitted in the next few months. He emphasized that these aspects have a priority within the PAHO because of the perspectives they offer for solving the problems of the countries in the region.

The conclusions and recommendations of the "Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America" were then read. They were approved and it was agreed that they should be included as COSALFA resolutions.

Site of the next meeting of COSALFA and of the International Seminar on Epidemiological Surveillance. The delegates unanimously approved the proposal submitted by the Paraguayan delegate to hold the events in Asunción, Paraguay.

The Commission then discussed the desirability of a more active participation by livestock producers in the efforts to control and eliminate FMD. It was agreed that the Secretary's office would be responsible for promoting increased participation by farm associations and groups representative of the cattle raisers in the upcoming COSALFA meetings.

The Venezuelan delegate said there was a need for closer coordination between COSALFA and the Andean Pact countries.

The XVI OIE World Conference on Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The IICA/OIE representative outlined the topics to be discussed at the Conference and suggested that the delegates ask the PAHO for authorization for the PAFMDC to submit a consolidated report on the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South America. The report would include aspects of control activities, information methods and epidemiological surveillance systems. The Commission unanimously approved the suggestion and asked the Center to send a copy of the reports one month prior to the meeting.

In this regard the Center Director mentioned the necessity of having the interested countries send in additional comments for inclusion in the report on the status of the programs, which report COSALFA had approved.

He also referred to the excellent work of FMD virus strains characterization with the fingerprinting technique; the work was conducted within the framework of the CEVAN/SENASA of Argentina agreement with cooperation from the PAFMDC.

Finally, the representative from the USA said that the Center is an entity known on a world-wide level. It is staffed by qualified scientific personnel who carry out work and studies of immediate practical application for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, and has likewise developed an efficient program for training human resources. The delegate manifested his support despite his country's limitations in allocating larger funding for the Center.

G. Closing Session

During this session, the ex-officio Secretary presented and submitted to the delegates' consideration the proposals for resolutions formulated by some of the delegates and by the Secretary:

Resolution I - Definition of the policy of the foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America, with respect to disease-free areas.

Resolution II - Definition of the methodology for identifying and delimiting foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America.

Resolution III - Definition of the methodology for establishing, consolidating and expanding foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America.

Resolution IV - Sanitary standards for livestock-raising expansion.

Resolution V - Policy and strategies of the foot-and-mouth disease control campaign in South America.

Resolution VI - XVI Conference of the O.I.E. permanent commission on foot-and-mouth disease.

Resolution VII - Measures to raise COSALFA to the status of an institutionalized permanent commission at subregional level.

Resolution VIII - Andean Pact project for disease-free areas.

Resolution IX - Quarantine stations for international animal trade.

Resolution X - Customs procedures involving transportation of biological materials.

Resolution XI - Seminar on the creation of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America.

Resolution XII - Genetic engineering for the development of antigens for the preparation of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.

Resolution XIII - Contributions to the budget of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

Resolution XIV - Bolivian Government's acknowledgement to the Pan American Health Organization.

Resolution XV - Site of the next COSALFA meeting.

All these resolutions were duly considered and revised by the Commission. Their complete texts are attached to this report as they were approved at the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA, held at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the session that was held on March 12, 1982.

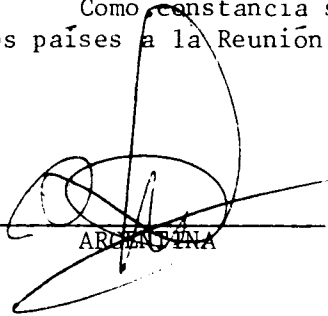
Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, ex-officio Secretary, then proceeded to read the final report, which was approved without comments.

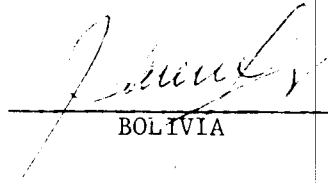
Dr. Gustavo Manrique Londoño, Chairman of the IX COSALFA meeting expressed his appreciation to the delegates, observers, and participants for their excellent contributions to the development of the meeting agenda and discussions, and further encouraged them to continue striving to comply with the resolutions taken at COSALFA. He also urged them to maintain close coordination in the development of this great endeavor that is the continental campaign to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease. He likewise thanked the Secretary's Office and the Center personnel in general for their excellent work in organizing the meeting and for all the attention received during his stay in Rio de Janeiro.

The Ninth Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA was declared closed at 18:00 hours on the 12th of March, 1982.

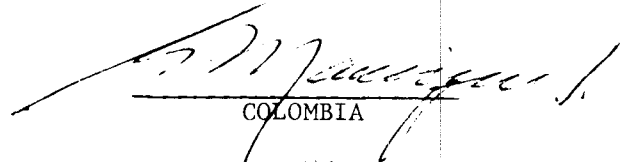
The Spanish original of this document was duly signed by all the member delegates.

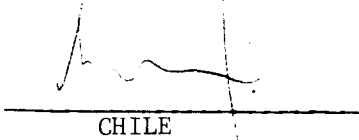
Como constancia se firma el presente informe por los delegados de los países a la Reunión.

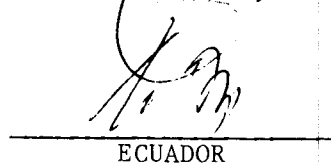

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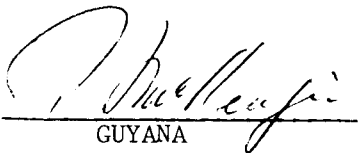

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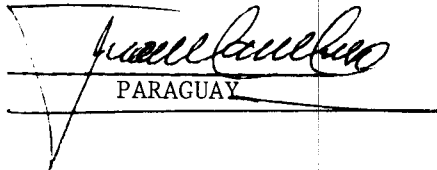

BRASIL


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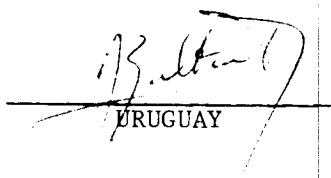

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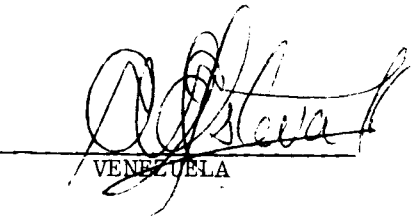

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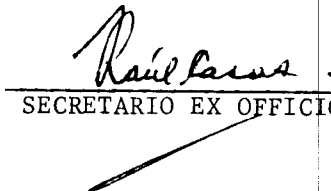

GUYANA


PARAGUAY


PERU


URUGUAY


VENEZUELA


SECRETARIO EX OFFICIO

NOTE: Spanish version signed.

R E S O L U T I O N S

RESOLUTION I

DEFINITION OF THE POLICY OF THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CONTROL PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AMERICA, WITH RESPECT TO DISEASE-FREE AREAS

In view of the report of conclusions and recommendations of the
"Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America" and

WHEREAS:

The present status of the efforts to control foot-and-mouth disease
in the countries of South America permits and requires a final definitive
push for the eradication of the disease;

This eradication must be the result of a joint effort on the part of
the countries of the continent; and

The establishment of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas will signify
considerable economic benefit for the livestock-raising industry of the
South American countries,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. That the goal of eradicating foot-and-mouth disease from the South
American continent shall be the target that orients the definition of
objectives, strategies and priorities to be established by each country for
its foot-and-mouth disease control program.
2. That the organization of the eradication plans be based on the es-
tablishment, preservation and expansion of disease-free areas as set forth
in the addendum to this recommendation entitled "Countries and areas free
of foot-and-mouth disease. Requirements and conditions", which is Document
FACIA/7 of the Hemispheric Meeting on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Interna-
tional Trade in Animals and Animal Products, held in Argentina, November,
1978.
3. That free areas in each of the countries be defined according to
uniform criteria and methods throughout South America.

4. That the services analyze the highest costs that the intensification of the programs may imply in the light of the short, medium and long-range benefits to be achieved, at the levels of each country and subregion. Estimation of these benefits must be based on an increase in production and productivity to meet the domestic market's requirements and generate larger balances for export purposes, and must also take into account the lower costs of a prevention program as compared to a control program.

5. Intensify the efforts of intercountry cooperation and coordination in the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in those ecological areas common to two or more countries.

6. That the decisions taken and developed at the national and subregional levels receive the continuous and expanded cooperation and coordination of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

7. That mechanisms be established so that the foot-and-mouth disease-free areas achieved in the countries receive international recognition as such. For this purpose a Working Commission is set up, composed of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Chile. The COSALFA ex-officio Secretary will convoke and support the Commission's efforts.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

COUNTRIES AND AREAS FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.
REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS*

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- *Approved by: - Recommendation I (I/78) of the Hemispheric Meeting on
Foot-and-Mouth Disease and International Trade of
Animals and Animal Products. Buenos Aires, Argentina,
November 1978.
- Resolution V of the RICAZ-11. Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
April 1978.

COUNTRIES AND AREAS FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.
REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

The International Zoosanitary Code of the International Office of Epizootics establishes the following requirements for a zone or country to be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease.

An "infected zone" may be considered to be again free of foot-and-mouth disease no less than 21 days after "sanitary slaughtering" and disinfection if no new case of the disease is recorded, or, if such "sanitary slaughtering" is not practiced, six months after the clinical cure or death of the last infected animal.

A country that does not yet have a compulsory, systematic vaccination program may be considered free of foot-and-mouth disease when it can be established that there has been no case of the disease in that country for at least three years.

For countries known to practice effective sanitary measures and to have launched a program of compulsory, systematic vaccination of at least its large ruminants using inactivated virus vaccines, this period will be two years after the termination of the last case.

For countries that do practice "sanitary slaughtering," whether or not in conjunction with compulsory, systematic vaccination of at least the large ruminants, using inactivated virus vaccines, this period will be six months after termination of the last case.

By this criterion, the following countries of North and South America have been declared free of foot-and-mouth disease: Canada, United States of America, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and all the countries and territories in the Caribbean.

In South America there are countries, and areas within some countries affected by the disease, with no cases of foot-and-mouth disease and which, under the International Zoosanitary Code, could be considered free of it. The countries are Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana. The areas are Patagonia in Chile and Argentina, the northwestern Chocó in Colombia, the southern part of the state of Bolívar in Venezuela, and the northern Chaco in Paraguay.

This document deals specifically with the problem of disease-free areas in affected countries because of the epidemiological and economic impact of the disease and its repercussions on the international market.

In recent years, the effects on the sector have prompted initiatives in different parts of the world to discuss this issue of general interest in the light of recent advances in scientific and technological knowledge.

It summarizes the position and proposals of the countries as voiced through their specific international organizations. The first part deals with activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE). The second part takes up the situation and results of the activities which consequently have been promoted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in the Americas.

BACKGROUND

FAO/OIE Meeting in Paris

In September 1971, a joint FAO/OIE working group met in Paris to study the criteria governing meat imports from countries not completely free of exotic virulent diseases in Europe, with a view to facilitating international trade. The concept of a disease-free zone was discussed in the light of new knowledge about the epidemiology of foot-and-mouth disease and experience in monitoring the disease in the previous decade.

The main result was the formulation of a scheme for demarcating clearly defined disease-free zones in countries where the disease is endemic. The disease-free rating is earned through regular inoculation of all the bovine population, strict sanitary control of the movement of animals, and the existence of a slaughterhouse with a quarantine area for rigorous observation prior to slaughtering.

The group felt that these zones could be kept disease-free by a good veterinary service adequately endowed with manpower, facilities and funds, back by legislation, and capable of taking and enforcing decisions on meat exports.

The text of the report of the meeting is presented as Annex II (Appendix V) of report AGA:EUFGD/19/7 of the 19th Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, held in Rome in April 1972. The report shows that the subject was discussed with special reference to the potential market between Europe and Africa.

The report contains the following recommendations in regard to foot-and-mouth disease-free zones:

1. Because of the increasing complexity of the subtype situation in many regions, it is recommended that the European countries consider as potentially exotic any strain of foot-and-mouth disease from a place where viruses of subtypes different from those found in Europe appear in different regions.

2. Since it is now possible to ship boned meat, which reduces the danger of transmitting the disease, it is recommended that only boned meat be imported under the system discussed in this publication. Viscera should not be imported.
3. In the light of present knowledge of modified live vaccines of foot-and-mouth disease, it is recommended that no imports be made from countries where these vaccines are used.
4. Since the best safeguard in the importation of meat is to create disease-free zones and pre-slaughter quarantine areas (feedlots in some countries) in these zones, the following rules are recommended for doing so.

Regulations for Disease-free Zones

- i. The boundaries of the disease-free zone should be natural barriers or fences, which need not be proof against wild animals. The illegal entry and exit of animals must be prevented, and the boundaries should be guarded so that this security may be permanently enforced.
- ii. To be declared disease-free, a zone must be free of foot-and-mouth disease for one year.
- iii. All livestock in the disease-free zone must be vaccinated every six months against foot-and-mouth disease with officially authorized vaccines administered under the supervision of the veterinary services.
- iv. There must be surveillance of livestock movements into and within the area, and all animals must be marked with a brand officially approved for the area.
- v. The disease-free zone shall be large enough to support the economic operation of an abattoir where only animals from the zone are slaughtered.
- vi. Cattle will enter the area only after a 3-month isolation in an adjoining place and must have been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease prior to entry.
- vii. The situation of the disease outside the area must be studied periodically. No effort should be spared to combat the disease in areas adjoining the disease-free zone, and a ring inoculation program should be carried out wherever the disease appears.

- viii. If there is an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the area after it has been established, then:
- a) all movements of animals within a radius of 30 km around the place infected must be prohibited;
 - b) all meat exports must be suspended;
 - c) the outbreak must be immediately reported to the OIE and/or FAO and to the importing country or countries;
 - d) the virus strain must be examined in the local laboratory and a sample shipped to the World Foot-and-Mouth Disease Reference Laboratory at Pirbright, England;
 - e) immobilization will be ended and exports renewed 28 days after the slaughter of the last of the diseased animals and of any that have been in contact with them;
 - f) if the slaughtering is not carried out as indicated in (e), the immobilization shall continue for six months from the appearance of the last clinical case, and no animal shall be allowed out of the area before the expiration of this period;
 - g) a ring inoculation must be carried out immediately on all livestock in a radius of 15 km of the infected place;
 - h) a thorough investigation must be made to locate the source of the infection in each outbreak;
 - i) a proper official record must be kept of all control procedures employed.

Regulation of the Quarantine Area (feeding lots in certain regions)

- i. The quarantine area must be tightly fenced off to prevent any movement in or out of domestic or wild animals.
- ii. There must be no wild animals in the area.
- iii. Animals will be allowed to enter the quarantine area only after spending at least six months in the disease-free zone.
- iv. Animals admitted to the quarantine area must be kept isolated for a month, for close observation and for revaccination against foot-and-mouth disease.

- v. The animals must spend at least three months in the quarantine area before being slaughtered.
- vi. No meat may enter the quarantine area except meat for export.
- vii. The area must be subject to direct veterinary control.
- viii. The movement of humans into and out of the area must be kept to a minimum.
- ix. If an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease occurs in the area
 - a) no animal inside the area may be slaughtered for export;
 - b) all livestock in the area must be slaughtered for local consumption or processing; and
 - c) no animals may be allowed in the quarantine area until it has been empty for one month.
- 5. It is recommended that the slaughterhouse cutting meat for export be located inside the disease-free zone and that it not handle meat that does not meet export standards.

Inspection of the meat should conform to the standards of the importing country. Export meat must never come into contact with meat or animal products not processed to export standards.

Export meat should not be boned until rigor mortis is complete.

- 6. Realizing that importing countries will require guarantees of satisfactory compliance with the agreements, the meeting recommends that, before a final agreement is concluded, a mission of veterinarians from the importing country visit the exporting country in order to examine the various aspects of the export trade with the veterinary authorities there with a view to reaching a bilateral agreement.
- 7. It is recommended that once an agreement has been concluded, the importing country keep in force its laws prohibiting importation and only authorize imports made under the new agreement.
- 8. It is important to act immediately and effectively against any outbreak in a European country by an exotic type or subtype of foot-and-mouth disease virus. Strict measures for slaughtering are indispensable and should be carried out immediately.

In the event that immunization is needed to control a dangerous situation, the Group notes that there are vaccines and seed of exotic viruses in Europe that can be made available in emergencies.

9. It is strongly recommended that livestock not be imported into Europe from any country where exotic types or subtypes of foot-and-mouth disease are endemic.

FAO Meeting in Pendik, Turkey

In October 1973, FAO convened a meeting of experts in Pendik, Turkey, to examine the problem of non-tariff barriers in the meat trade and disease-free zones. The main subject was foot-and-mouth disease, and the discussions were based on the report of the 1971 meeting in Paris.

It was recognized that establishing disease-free zones is a complex, arduous and expensive operation that should only be attempted as part of a program for the control and eradication of specific diseases in an entire country.

Following is a summary of the meeting's recommendations on zones free of foot-and-mouth disease.

- "9. ... that the concept of disease-free zone should only be implemented as part of a coordinated program for the complete control of specific diseases in the entire country.
10. ... that the term 'disease-free zone' be changed to 'zone free of a given disease' and that the disease or diseases involved be clearly specified in all documents on the subject.
11. ... that the criterion formulated by the FAO/OIE Working Group for the creation of zones free of specific diseases be kept under constant review and that FAO contact OIE for the definition of mutually acceptable procedures.
12. ... that the group of experts on non-tariff barriers in the meat trade and the free zones meet every two years to provide further guidelines for work in this highly important matter."

The experts also felt that under certain conditions free zones might exist without the help of vaccination, and cited specifically the case of Patagonia.

SITUATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Countries and Areas Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in South America

The only South American countries where there is no foot-and-mouth disease are Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana. Patagonia in Argentina, the northwestern region of Colombia bordering on Panama, and southeastern Venezuela, all of which are subject to special prevention programs, are recognized as zones traditionally free of the disease in affected countries in South America.

Over the years the national epidemiological surveillance services sponsored and supported by PANAFTOSA have confirmed a long absence of the disease from areas of other countries, too. In some cases this situation appears to occur naturally, and in others it has been brought about by human agency in the form of programs of isolation, quarantine, and slaughtering.

Preliminary studies suggest that there is no foot-and-mouth disease in the northern region of the Paraguayan Chaco and that this situation could be brought about in adjacent areas. Peru is conducting a national epidemiological diagnostic study, and the available data disclose departments there, especially in southern Peru, with no record of the disease for several years and others where it has occurred only sporadically. There are no indications of similar situations in other countries.

In Chile, outbreaks of the disease were frequent in the Central Valley where about 90% of the country's bovine population is concentrated. A national program to combat the disease was begun in 1970, and in the southern part of the Valley, where the program was first implemented, the last case of foot-and-mouth disease was recorded in November 1971. Following the requisite epidemiological and socioeconomic studies and the organization of adequate prevention machinery, the Government declared that region free of foot-and-mouth disease in December 1977.

This situation was achieved through a plan combining systematic vaccination, restriction of movement of animals, the isolation of foci, and awareness-building in communities. It is without doubt a highly significant example for the Hemisphere.

Country Action

At the fourth plenary session of the IX Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control (RICAZ IX), held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 5 to 8 April 1976, the countries of the Hemisphere adopted Resolution VI, which in its operative part says:

"To recommend to the countries that in conjunction with PAHO they define the criteria to be required before an area in a given country can be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease."

In response to this resolution and acting through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, PAHO drew up a working document and submitted it to the Fourth Regular Meeting of COSALFA, held in Rio de Janeiro on 10 and 11 February 1977.

The Commission took the document as a guide for the countries to apply under regulations and procedures suited to the epidemiological characteristics of the disease in each of them and to their several needs and interests, and regarded it as a useful basic document for broader discussion and study at specific international meetings on the problem. The Commission approved the document by Resolution I, which submitted it to RICAZ X for consideration, as follows:

"REQUIREMENTS FOR DECLARATION OF AREAS FREE OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE WITHIN AFFECTED COUNTRIES

A. For a Country

1. The presence of an official veterinary service endowed with adequate physical, financial, legal and human resources, and capable of performing its function everywhere in the country.
2. The implementation of a planned nationwide campaign against foot-and-mouth disease that is adjusted to regional differences in the epidemiology of the disease and includes the following components:
 - 2.1 A unit charged with identifying the agents of vesicular diseases.
 - 2.2 Adequate supplies of vaccines officially approved on the basis of controls of their preparation, safety and effectiveness in keeping with recommended international standards.
 - 2.3 Programs for the vaccination of the animal population at risk, conducted or supervised by the government's veterinary service.
 - 2.4 Machinery for controlling the importation of animals and animal products and the movement of animals within the country.
 - 2.5 A national system for the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases of animals to inspect, record, analyze and report on the occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease, with data on the numbers of herds and animals infected, where and when they are infected, and by which virus types and subtypes.
3. Continuously operating agreements with neighboring countries for the cooperative control of foot-and-mouth disease, with special emphasis on common epidemiological regions.

B. For a Free Area

1. Operation of an epidemiological surveillance system specifically for the area, under laws and regulations designed to keep out foot-and-mouth disease and broad enough to apply in diverse epidemiological situations.
2. Passage of at least two years with no recorded case of foot-and-mouth disease.
3. Measures to prevent the possible occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease by eliminating all diseased animals and those in contact with them, with or without perifocal vaccinations:
 - 3.1 If eradication is not accompanied by vaccination, the area will again be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease 21 days after the animals have been eliminated and the area has been disinfected.
 - 3.2 If eradication is accompanied by vaccination, the area will again be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease no sooner than 6 months after the animals have been eliminated and the area has been disinfected."

Boundaries of an Area Free of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

An important factor for declaring an area free of foot-and-mouth disease is the relationship between its cattle population and other populations in places where the disease exists. In short, the less the contact the greater the safety.

This situation is chiefly influenced by three factors: the geography, the self-sufficiency of the livestock sector in regard to meat and meat products, and sanitary control.

Obviously, the most favorably situated lands are those that are isolated by extensive areas, such as large bodies of water, mountain ranges, deserts, and jungles, which have no animals, or very few, susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease. They are all the safer if they have sufficient livestock to meet the needs of their human population. If they do not, control of the entrance of animals and animal by-products is facilitated in any case by the geographic barriers themselves.

In the absence of such barriers, the only way to keep areas free of foot-and-mouth disease is by strict sanitary measures, which are generally costly and difficult to apply.

The boundaries of areas free of foot-and-mouth disease are ecological rather than political, and in some cases can even spill over into neighboring countries.

RICAZ X endorsed the resolutions of the Fourth Regular Meeting of COSALFA and recommended that the countries study and consider applying the guide on requirements for areas free of foot-and-mouth disease drawn up by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

PAHO accordingly sent the guide to all its Member Countries. By the end of 1977 replies had been received from 12 countries: Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Guyana, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela.

These replies, which are summarized at the end of this report, recognize the validity and feasibility of the proposal, and suggest more severe provisions on some aspects. Three countries that are free of foot-and-mouth disease (Canada, United States of America and Guatemala) object in different ways to recognizing as disease free areas in countries that are affected by the disease. Canada stipulates that there must be a satisfactory national epidemiological surveillance system and that no clinical cases shall have been recorded and no virus detected in the country's herds for some time. The United States of America cites the prohibition under law since 1930 of the importation of animals or meat from countries that the Department of Agriculture has declared to harbor foot-and-mouth disease. Guatemala says recognition of areas as free of foot-and-mouth disease in affected countries is not advisable because of the lack of reliable guarantees.

Noteworthy among the standards suggested for areas free of foot-and-mouth disease are the following:

1. It must be spelled out just what is meant by "an official veterinary service capable of performing its function everywhere in the country." Brazil says that this capability should be evaluated annually by an international body. Cuba is of the opinion it should be based on the susceptible animal population and how it is managed, and points out that, in accordance with common practice in the Americas, adequate monitoring and notification requires no more than one veterinarian for every 10,000 animals. The United States of America wants a detailed description of the qualifications and distribution of the professional personnel.
2. As regards the demand for vaccination programs for susceptible animal populations, Cuba proposes a minimum coverage of 90%, Peru recommends that it cover only cattle, and Venezuela contends that systematic vaccination campaigns are unnecessary in countries where the frequency of foot-and-mouth disease is generally low.

3. Brazil proposes that national epidemiological surveillance systems provide international agencies with the following minimum data: immediate notification of the appearance of foot-and-mouth disease in a free area; weekly reporting of the number and distribution of land holdings in the country in which vesicular diseases have appeared; and monthly reports on the types, and quarterly reports on the subtypes, of vesicular viruses identified in the country.
4. The 21-day period after elimination of the animals and disinfection without vaccination is considered too short. Belize and Brazil suggest 60 days and the use of sentinel animals in the second month. The United States of America shares the view that an observation period longer than three months is desirable.

In the event of eradication accompanied by vaccination, Peru recommends a minimum period of one year prior to declaration of an area as again free of foot-and-mouth disease. Cuba apparently agrees, holding that vaccinations must have been interrupted at least one year before an area can be pronounced free of foot-and-mouth disease.

5. As to how to keep a free area from being reinfected with foot-and-mouth disease, Brazil grants preference to the importation of animals and their by-products from areas or countries that are free of the disease and, if they are not, makes such entry conditional on the satisfaction of certain requirements, such as the existence of a government control program; no foot-and-mouth disease for twelve months within a radius of 50 km around the place or origin of the animals; and vaccination more than four months in advance and quarantine for not less than 15 days in the places of origin and delivery, respectively. Imported meat must be boned.

For greater safety, Venezuela recommends diagnostic tests to screen out possible carriers.

6. Mention is made of the desirability of determining the epidemiological status of the free area by conducting periodic serological surveys and taking esophagopharyngeal smears. Venezuela would like some comment from PANAFTOSA on rates of prevalence of VIA antibodies in uninfected and reclaimed zones.
7. Finally, it is stressed that the free area should be demarcated by law and its animals identified, and that importing countries should have a responsibility or right to inspect and evaluate areas free of foot-and-mouth disease.

To summarize, though opinions differ widely, these views are neither mutually exclusive nor conflicting, and in general they offer, together with the guideline document, an excellent basis for further discussions among the countries.

RESOLUTION II

DEFINITION OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING AND DELIMITING
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE-FREE AREAS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In consideration of the report of conclusions and recommendations of the "Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America", and

WHEREAS:

The necessity of establishing areas free of foot-and-mouth disease has been considered at several international meetings including, among others, the COSALFA, RIMSA, First Hemispheric Meeting on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and International Trade in Animals and Animal Products, meetings of the Andean Subregional Group, FAO/OIE, and at the Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America;

The determination, consolidation and expansion of areas free of foot-and-mouth disease is a fundamental step in attaining eradication of the disease;

All the countries of South America are either in the process of completing or have already completed the regional characterization of livestock-raising and foot-and-mouth disease within their borders,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. That, based on the regional characterization, each of the affected countries in South America shall identify and delimit the areas where the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease may signify an initial step toward the elimination of the disease in the respective country and in important subregions of the continent. Such identification and delimitation of areas will be presented at COSALFA as a specific topic on the agenda.
2. That the following shall be the criteria and reference framework utilized for the selection of the areas to be considered as priority areas:

2.1 Technical feasibility, established from the regional characterization of livestock-raising and of the disease, with special attention to the following aspects:

- a) - that they be areas whose livestock-raising activity does not depend critically on the supply of animals or products coming in from other areas;
- b) - that they be unaffected areas or areas of sporadic occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease; and
- c) - that they be areas where the geographical features and the livestock exploitation and herd management characteristics will enable the foot-and-mouth disease control programs to provide cover for the entire bovine population.

2.2 Strategic location, that the selected area be able to be expanded gradually, with respect to its location, as well as the characteristics of its livestock and of the surrounding zones.

2.3 Social and economic impact, although the benefit of eradication in these areas will reflect on the development of the country in general, it is desirable that economic and/or social advantages be forthcoming in the very areas where the program is conducted in order to encourage community participation.

2.4 Political impact, reference is made to the favorable effect that the establishment and consolidation of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas may have on the levels of political decision-making.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION III

DEFINITION OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR ESTABLISHING, CONSOLIDATING AND
EXPANDING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE-FREE AREAS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In consideration of the report of conclusions and recommendations of the "Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America", and

WHEREAS:

The establishment, maintenance and expansion of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas require the development and application of specific methods for that purpose,

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, in common accord with the countries, prepare a manual of procedure that orient the standardization and uniformization of the methodological criteria for obtaining, preserving and expanding disease-free areas.
2. That the following aspects be considered in the preparation of that manual:
 - a) - precise and reliable delimitation of said areas;
 - b) - motivation of technical personnel, politicians, producers, and the community in general with regard to the importance of this action and the operational changes required;
 - c) - establishing of mechanisms for effective sanitary control of animal transit as the basic strategic element in attaining the objectives;
 - d) - adaptation of the epidemiological surveillance and information system in order to ensure active and early identification of the clinical disease and subclinical infection;

- e) - establishment of procedures for the confinement and elimination of the infection. In particular, the aspects relating to the quarantine of affected areas;
- f) - promotion, whenever required, of service structures having the necessary resources and technical and administrative flexibility; and
- g) - international and inter-institutional cooperation that favors the complete success of the procedures.

3. That the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center forward a draft of the manual to the countries prior to August 15, 1982, so that the countries may return the revised document to the ex-officio Secretary at least ninety days before the Tenth COSALFA Meeting, where the document will be submitted for approval.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION IV

SANITARY STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK-RAISING EXPANSION

In consideration of the report of conclusions and recommendations of the "Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America", and

WHEREAS,

The boundaries of the livestock-raising activity are continually and frequently expanding, particularly into the Amazon and sub-Amazon areas;

The disease is apparently absent from the majority of those areas;

The said areas have characteristics and features favorable for the introduction and maintenance of an endemic foot-and-mouth disease ecosystem if the areas are populated with a sufficiently large mass of livestock;

It will be technically difficult to eliminate foot-and-mouth disease from these areas if they become endemic;

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. That the countries having areas for livestock-raising expansion establish strict sanitary standards to ensure that such areas of expansion will not be subject to the risk of foot-and-mouth disease.
2. That the countries send to the ex-officio Secretary copies of the standards established, for distribution to the other member countries of COSALFA.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION V

POLICY AND STRATEGIES OF THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CONTROL CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH AMERICA

In consideration of the document entitled "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America for the 1981-1990 ten-year period", which the COSALFA-VIII meeting asked the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to prepare in consultation with the member countries, and

WHEREAS:

The delegates and observers at the meeting are unanimously convinced of the possibility and necessity of a major push forward to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease from the continent,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the document "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America for the 1981-1990 ten-year period";
2. That each of the countries, with the utmost urgency, define the goals that the country intends to attain in accordance with the general guidelines of the document;
3. That each country establish a plan of action for achieving the afore-said goals within the criteria and strategic definitions contained in that document;
4. To request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center direct major priority to its technical cooperation activities for the rendering of advisory assistance to the countries requesting it for the preparation of their plans of action;

5. That said plans of action be forwarded to the Center no later than ninety days before the COSALFA-X meeting, the Center being thus asked to consolidate the national plans into a continental plan of action that is to be submitted to the consideration of the COSALFA-X meeting.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION VI

XVI CONFERENCE OF THE O.I.E. PERMANENT COMMISSION
ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WHEREAS:

The topics to be discussed at the XVI Conference of the O.I.E. Permanent Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease, scheduled for September 14-17, 1982, in Paris, France, are of the utmost importance; and

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, as an advisory and coordinating organization for the programs of foot-and-mouth disease control at the continental level, possesses the information required for consideration under topics 2 and 4 of the agenda of the aforesaid Conference,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Pan American Health Organization take the measures necessary so that the aforesaid Center, as representative of the COSALFA member countries, may prepare and submit the following topics at the XVI Conference of the O.I.E. Permanent Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease:
 - a) - Results of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccination campaigns in South America;
 - b) - Upgrading the methods for collecting and recording data on foot-and-mouth disease.
2. To urge the COSALFA member countries to prepare and submit to the aforesaid Conference other topics of interest on the agenda.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION VII

MEASURES TO RAISE COSALFA TO THE STATUS OF AN INSTITUTIONALIZED
PERMANENT COMMISSION AT SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

WHEREAS:

COSALFA has attained a status of importance in the technical area, based on ten years of permanent and continuous action in favor of the promotion, coordination and orientation to countries in their efforts to control foot-and-mouth disease;

There is a consensus among the countries represented in COSALFA-IX of the need to orient and direct the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease toward the eradication of the disease from the continent;

Such an orientation, on behalf of the livestock-raising activity in the countries, presents the need to project the technical actions toward commitments of major economic, political and social magnitude;

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To solicit that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAHO/WHO), as ex-officio Secretary of COSALFA, and in cooperation with the countries, draw up a project for regulations and by-laws enabling COSALFA to be recognized by the foreign offices of the member countries as a permanent institutionalized commission at the subregional level.
2. To inform the Brazilian Foreign Office of the COSALFA countries' desire that Brazil, as seat of both the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the COSALFA Secretary's Office, should actively promote, through said Foreign Office, the routing, revising and signing of the Agreement among the South American countries, and act as repository thereof.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION VIII

ANDEAN PACT PROJECT FOR DISEASE-FREE AREAS

WHEREAS:

The member countries of the Cartagena Agreement have decided to move toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease by means of establishing, maintaining and expanding disease-free areas in the Andean Subregion;

The aforesaid decision will contribute to a more efficient effort to control foot-and-mouth disease in South America;

It is desirable to make maximum use of the accomplishments attained in the process of integrating the Andean Agricultural and Livestock-Raising sector, as well as the experience and technical support that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has continually rendered to the countries of South America;

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement study a joint mechanism of cooperation to provide for maximum support to the efforts of establishing, maintaining and expanding the foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in the Andean Subregion.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION IX

QUARANTINE STATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL TRADE

WHEREAS:

The interchange of animals is of great importance for the genetic improvement and promotion of the countries' livestock-raising activities, while also involving a high degree of risk with respect to the transmission of diseases that might affect the livestock patrimony on the national, sub-regional and hemispheric levels,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To request that the member countries attach utmost priority to counting on, upgrading and maintaining strategically located quarantine stations, built with facilities sufficiently safe to comply, technically and adequately, with the sanitary requirements needed for the international exchange of animals, semen and embryonic material.
2. That the quarantine stations receive the support of laboratories adequately equipped to comply with the diagnostic studies needed to prevent the introduction of transmissible risk agents into the importing country in particular, and into the region, in general.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION X

CUSTOMS PROCEDURES INVOLVING TRANSPORTATION OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

WHEREAS:

The Brazilian Customs Authorities have supported the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center by facilitating its work as a reference center for the countries of the continent;

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has a commitment to the countries to provide them with large volumes of vaccine and other reference biological materials, a commitment that is dependent on the quick release from customs procedures which could delay shipments and lead to the deterioration of the products,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Brazilian customs authorities for their support to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center with respect to quick customs clearance, which has enabled the countries of the continent to act in timely manner when emergency sanitary circumstances so required.
2. To solicit continued support from the Brazilian authorities that hold the responsibility and jurisdiction over customs clearance of the biological materials dispatched by the countries to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and authorization for the shipment of biological materials by the PAFMDC, both of which are of extreme importance in the efforts to control animal diseases.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION XI

SEMINAR ON THE CREATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE-FREE AREAS
IN SOUTH AMERICA

WHEREAS:

The Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America, held at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center on March 8-10, 1982, was highly successful,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To express its appreciation to the Pan American Health Organization, and in particular the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, for the organization and development of the Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America.
2. To request that the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, organize an International Seminar on Epidemiological Surveillance, to be held in 1983 prior to the 10th Meeting of the COSALFA.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION XII

GENETIC ENGINEERING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIGENS FOR THE
PREPARATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINES

WHEREAS:

The preliminary results obtained to date at the level of laboratory research into genetic engineering techniques offer encouraging perspectives for the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines;

However, further in-depth knowledge is required about the antigens obtained through this method, especially with respect to the duration of immunity and antigenic spectrum;

The eventual utilization of this biological product in the national foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America will require that this technology be known and available to the countries of the area;

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To ask the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to instruct the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to establish a research program for the development of genetic engineering methods, with particular emphasis on the production of foot-and-mouth disease antigens.
2. That the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center should participate actively in the research and investigations regarding evaluation and use of the genetically engineered foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.
3. That the results eventually obtained be continually transferred over to the countries.
4. That the COSALFA member countries, through the ex-officio Secretary, keep themselves permanently informed of the field investigations they may eventually develop in this regard.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION XIII

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET OF THE
PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

WHEREAS:

The Governments of Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina have made voluntary contributions to complement the operations of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonosis Centers,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To express its gratitude to the Governments of Brazil, Ecuador and Argentina for their voluntary contributions to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the Pan American Zoonosis Center.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION XIV

THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS:

The Government of Bolivia has decided to expand the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease into the departments of Beni, Pando, Chuquisaca and Tarija;

The Bolivian National Service for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rabies and Brucellosis (SENARB) was assigned the job of drawing up a project which has been finished and designated as the Second Stage of the National Program for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rabies and Brucellosis;

In formulating this Second Stage, the SENARB has received permanent technical support from the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the Pan American Zoonosis Center;

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To record the acknowledgement expressed by the Government of the Republic of Bolivia to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and the Pan American Zoonosis Center for their valuable assistance.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

RESOLUTION XV

SITE OF THE NEXT COSALFA MEETING

WHEREAS:

The Delegation from Paraguay has kindly suggested that the next meeting of the COSALFA member countries take place in the city of Asuncion, Paraguay, and in view of the fact that the Commission's by-laws allow the suggestion to be accepted,

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

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. That the ex-officio Secretary schedule the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA-X) to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay.
2. To express its gratitude to the Government of Paraguay for the offer to hold the meeting in the Capital city.

(Approved at the ninth ordinary
meeting on March 12, 1982)

A N N E X E S

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

IX ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 11-12, 1982

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

IX ORDINARY MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 11-12, 1982

P R O G R A MThursday 11

- 09:00 Inaugural session
- 09:15 A. Report of the ex-officio Secretary
- 09:45 Discussion of the report
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 B. Status of the foot-and-mouth disease and vesicular disease control programs in South America, 1981
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 C. Estimation of geographic risks
- 14:30 Coffee break
- 15:00 D. Policy and strategies for foot-and-mouth disease control in South America in the 1981-1990 ten-year period

Friday 12

- 09:00 E. International animal trade
- 09:30 F. Miscellaneous matters
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 General discussion
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 G. Closing Session - Conclusions and recommendations
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 Final report
- 16:30 Closure