# XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND ZOONOSES CONTROL

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Washington, D.C., U.S.A., II-14 April 1978

Provisional Agenda Item 17

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SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Report of the Fifth Regular Meeting

COSALFA 5

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

V REGULAR MEETING

FINAL REPORT

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil March 30-31, 1978.

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

# V REGULAR MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 30-31, 1978.

# FINAL REPORT

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) took place in the offices of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centrol in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 30 and 31st, 1978, to discuss the matters listed on the agenda included as Annex I of this Report.

Present at the Meeting were delegations from Argentina. Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, plus observers from Canada, the United States of America, Great Britain, Honduras and Italy, as well as from following international organizations: the Inter-American Devolution of the Inter-American Devolution Bank (IDB), the European Economic Community (EEC) and Community of the United Nations (FAO). The complete list of participants is included in Annex II.

The Meeting was opened at 9:30 am on March 30th, with words of welcome by the Director of the Pan American Foot-animouth Disease Center, who expressed the hope that the Commission would be successful in its mask. He mentioned the circumstance that made it necessary to change the place of meeting and also spoke of the success recently achieved by the First International Seminar on the Administration of Programs for the Control of Programs on the Administration of Programs for the Control of Seminar on the South American conviction that a new stage in the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease is now being carried out on the South American continent, and ended his welcoming comments by wishing all participants a pleasant stay in Rio de Janeiro.

Next, in accordance with the statutes, the Presidency of the Meeting was assumed by the Representative from Ecuador, Dr. Manuel M. Moscoso Condor, who began by extending greetings in the name of the Minister of Agriculture of his country. He also presented his apologies for problems of an internal nature in his country having prevented using the Quito office for the Seminar mencioned above, the COSALFA Meeting and the XIth Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses Control (RICAZ/XI).

He pointed out that the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease is important because of the services it performs in favor of coordinating and integrating the programs, and concluded by encouraging all observers to participate actively.

As Secretary ex officio, Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga then read the secretariat report. He mentioned, among other thigs, the problem caused in Paraguay by the importation of cattle from Rhodesia and put all the records of actions taken on that occasion at the disposal of the participants. The secretariat report was approved without comment.

The Delegate from Venezuela proposed that the subject of the Rhodesia cattle be discussed at greater length in that part of the meeting dealing with General Matters.

Dr. Casas presented the document entitled "Status of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs in South America. 1977" which the Center had prepared on the basis of information provided by the countries and which will be submitted for consideration to the RICAZ/XI Meeting; the document was approved.

Each of the delegates from the various countries then gave a brief complementary explanation on the foot-and-mouth disease situation in their respective countries.

Following the participants' explanations, Dr. Abraham A. Arce took the floor to express the satisfaction with which the Inter-American Development Bank looked upon the initiative of holding a meeting to examine questions of an administrative nature, because weaknesses in program administration have been observed in the evaluations that the IDB periodically makes of the projects receiving its support. He considers that very practical training in this field is necessary. He drew attention to the general improvement observed in foot-and-mouth disease tendencies in South America and in the production of vaccines, particularly in Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina; but he felt that problems still exist after vaccines are produced, in the way they are handled and applied in the field, etc. He then pointed out the need to clarify the alternatives available in the strategy of fighting and controlling the disease.

The President then suggested that the next international seminar organized by the Center deal precisely with this topic.

Dr. Juan Pablo Romero reported that a system of regional strategies with positive socioeconomic results has been implanted in Paraguay.

The Secretary of Agriculture of the Territory of Roraima (Brazil) inquired about the present state of that agreement in the neighboring countries and asked specifically about the Venezuelan quarantine station in that region.

The Venezuelan Representative said that the project for the quarantine station is delayed and that it has no priority in his country. Further information will be available at the Meeting scheduled for this coming May.

The Meeting was adjourned for lunch and reopened at 1:30 pm with a presentation by the Chilean delegation about the sanitary education program underway in the Xth Region, now declared free of foot-and-mouth disease.

Dr. Romero requested a minute of silence in memory of Dr. Joaquin de Freitas, who passed away last June.

Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga brought up the problem of sending samples to the Center, and referred to the cooperation extended by the Pirbright World Reference Laboratory. He mentioned a joint report on type A virus done jointly by the Center and that Laboratory, and also commented upon the Center's need to receive up-to-date samples of field virus. He announced that a meeting will be held this coming May in Lyon, France, to define procedures for classifying foot-and-mouth disease viruses. He recommended that the system of quarterly notification of subtypes be intensified.

Next, the subject of bovines imported from Rhodesia was discussed, and the action taken by the Center was described. Dr. Romero was asked to give a detailed explanation of the current situation.

The Paraguayan Delegate said that the animals are apparently in a good state of health, are under the control of veterinarians from the Ministry of Agriculture and have been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease. He reported that Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay have all closed their borders to the transit of bovine animals from Paraguay; for that reason, for example, Paraguayan cattle were not permitted at the show in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso, Brazil. It is hoped that a solution will be found to satisfy both delegates and the COSALFA but which will not require slaughtering the animals. The Paraguayan Government now prefers the option of requesting the advice and assistance of International Organizations and Agencies in carrying out the examinations to which the animals should be submitted.

Dr. Faustino Contardo, the European Economic Community Representative, reminded the participants that subtypes SAT-1, 2

and 3 exist in Africa and recommended that animals from that continent should not be imported.

The Delegate from Venezuela, Dr. Germán Gómez Gutiérrez, emphasized the seriousness of the situation and expressed his surprise that the Center has limited its action to sending out letters.

The Director of the Center then pointed out and clarified its functions, range and powers. Dr. Gomez proposed that COSALFA recommend that Paraguay slaughter the animals.

Dr. Romero affirmed that the health authorities in his country had handled the problem with a responsible attitude. The animals were rigorously isolated and put under observation for 15 months; now the authorities consider that the option followed up to the present moment is the most appropriate, ie., perform whatever examinations are considered to provide the most security.

Dr. Gustavo Reta Pettersson, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau's Regional Veterinary Advisor, asked if legislation exists in Paraguay and whether it is applied. The observer from Canada asked if the African animals are in contact with Paraguayan bovines. Dr. Romero answered affirmatively to both questions.

The President requested that the COSALFA Member Countries give their opinions about the alternative solutions of eliminating the animals or submitting them to examinations and tests. For lack of unanimity, the President considered the discussion terminated and requested that projects for solutions be presented at the meeting on the following day.

The session was reopened at 3 pm following a brief interval. Dr. Casas gave an explanation of the situation concerning the control of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines, stressing the very significant advances that have been made in that field in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and explained what methods are being applied in each country. He also pointed out the progress that is being achieved in Brazil and Colombia. Likewise, he commented that because of the importance that the Center assigns to this matter, it is organizing an international seminar scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires next October.

He also expressed the need for complementing the advances attained in the field of vaccines with studies of the ecosystems, in order to perfect the strategies in the fight against foot—and—mouth disease. He stressed the importance of diagnoses on the continent that will be complemented by the regional laboratory to

be built in Panama with financial assistance from the United States of America and the Regional International Plant and Animal Health Organization (OIRSA). He then referred to the information system fostered by the Center and now implanted in all the countries, following Uruguay's reentry into the network in 1978.

With reference to oil adjuvant vaccines, he mentioned the outstanding progress that has been attained in cattle as well as in swine, as was evaluated by the Center's Scientific Advisory Committee and expressed in a declaration on the occasion of its last meeting in November, 1977. He mentioned that the Center is carrying out joint experiments with Brazilian Authorities in the State of Rio de Janeiro —involving 50,000 head of cattle— and in two areas of Rio Grande do Sul, involving 25,000 and 12,000 head respectively. Joint experiments with Uruguay in the zone around Montevideo involve 3,000 bovines and with Argentina, 15,000 head of cattle in the Hipólito Irigoyen Pilot Plan.

A project to secure IDB cooperation for these studies is being negotiated and the Center encourages member countries to support IDB participation in this initiative.

He then urged the countries to strengthen the march of bilateral agreements and offered the Center's full cooperation when needed, through the services of the main office in Rio de Janeiro and the consultants in the various countries.

Regarding vesicular stomatitis, he stated that the Center is working on two projects, one with Brazil and the other for the Central American countries. He brought the explanation to a close by submitting to the participants' consideration a project for standardizing the methods of controlling foot-and-mouth disease vaccines, another establishing the mimimum requirements that oil adjuvant vaccines should fulfill and a third proposing a course in Animal Health Administration.

Dr. Félix Rosenberg affirmed that oil adjuvant vaccines are being considered in the campaign strategies under study, and that it is important for the countries to make advances in epidemiological characterization.

When the floor was turned over to the observers, Dr. Giorgio Gagliardi, the Italian observer, commented that his country's experience in the last 10 years may be useful to the countries of this continent and mentioned that Italy has currently a deficit of 2,000,000 bovines that should be imported for consumption, in addition to other meat imports. Twelve years ago there were more than 5,000 foci annually, but since mandatory vaccination was introduced that number declined 90%.

There is an average of 10 to 30 foci per year at the present time, usually of external origin and caused either by infected incoming cattle or by imported beef or pork. He pointed out that in 1977, in Italy as well as in Germany and Holland, there were foci of a strain of virus A serologically similar to  $A_{24}$ , probably introduced by meat imported from South America. The vaccination campaign has shown very satisfactory results. He then especially emphasized the need for a faster exchange of information between Europe and South America.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm and was reopened at 9:15 am on the 31st of March.

The President offered the floor to the Brazilian Representative, Dr. José Alberto da Silva Lira, who explained the new structure at the Ministry of Agriculture and the position that the problem and struggle against foot-and-mouth disease occupies within the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock. He also emphasized the priority attention being given to developing the information system, which is regarded as an indispensable basis for taking decisions and defining activities.

At the close of his explanation, the Secretary submitted the following matters: conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on Administration, items for the COSALFA Seminar in 1979, the problem of the Rhodesia cattle quarantined in Paraguay, the information system in relation to the countries outside of the continent, requirements for licensing oil adjuvant vaccines, quarterly notification of virus subtypes and study of virus of epidemiological importance with shipments of samples to the reference laboratory at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

The first and last two matters were approved unanimously, without extensive observations, as was the item dealing with epidemiological information for countries located outside the continent. It was recalled that the notification of virus subtypes should be included in the member countries' monthly report, and that the Center should put out the quarterly publications.

The Representatives from Brazil, Paraguay and Venezuela made several observations about the subjects and, when they finished, the President decided to set up commissions to write up the respective resolutions included herein as Annex III.

Finally, the President thanked the representatives of the countries, the observers and the representatives of the international organizations for their participation and closed the meeting at 4 pm.

# ANNEX I

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

# V REGULAR MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 30-31, 1978.

# PROGRAM

Thursday, 30 March				
9:00	am	Opening session		
9:15	am	Report by the Secretariat		
9:45	am	Discussion of the report		
10:30	am	Coffee break		
11:00	am	Status of the foot-and-mouth disease in South America		
12:30	pm	Lunch		
13:30	pm	General matters		
14:30	pm	Coffee break		
15:00	pm	Status of the foot-and-mouth disease in South America		

# Friday, 31 March

9:00	am	Conclusions and recommendations
10:30	am	Coffee break
11:00	am	Final report
12:30	pm	Lunch
13:00	pm	Final report
15:00	pm	Coffee break
15:30	pm	Approval of the Final Report and closure of the meeting

# ANNEX II

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

#### V REGULAR MEETING

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 30-31, 1978.

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

# REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES

# ARGENTINA

Dr. Federico González Grey Director Nacional de Sanidad Animal Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Animal (SENASA) Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura y Ganadería Paseo Colón 974 Capital Federal

Dr. Carlos Hugo Caggiano
Director General
Servicio de Luchas Sanitarias (SELSA)
Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura y Ganadería
Av. Pte. Julio A. Roca 751, 19 piso
Capital Federal

### BRAZIL

Dr. José Alberto da Silva Lira Secretário Nacional de Defesa Agropecuária Ministério da Agricultura Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco 8 Brasília, DF

Dr. Ubiratan Mendes Serrão
Subsecretário da Subsecretaria de Defesa
Sanitária Animal (SDSA)
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Super Center Venâncio 2.000
Quadra 700, Bloco "B", Nº 50 - SCS
Brasília, DF

Dr. Byron Prestes Costa
Assessor do Subsecretário
Subsecretaria de Defesa Sanitária Animal (SDSA)
Ministério da Agricultura
Edifício Surer Center Venâncio 2.000
Quadra 700, Bloco "B", Nº 50 - SCS
Brasília, DF

# REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES (cont')

# BRAZIL

Dr. Luiz Aimberê Soares de Freitas Secretário de Economia e Agricultura Secretaria de Economia, Agricultura e Colonização (SEAC) Praça do Centro Cívico, 406 Boa Vista, T.F., Roraima

Dr. Zuley Ferreira Pontes
Executor Projeto Roraima Saude Animal
Secretaria de Economia, Agricultura e
Colonização (SEAC)
Praça do Centro Cívico, 406
Boa Vista, T.F., Roraima

Dr. Decio de Araujo Lyra
Diretor da Divisão de Produtos Veterinários
Subsecretaria de Defesa Sanitária Animal (SDSA)
Secretaria Nacional de Defesa e Inspeção
Agropecuária (SNAD)
Edifício Venâncio, 2.000, 3º andar, sala 344
Brasília, DF

Dr. Cesar Eduardo Enríquez Rozas Consultor Secretaria Nacional de Defesa Agropecuária (SNAD) Edíficio Venâncio, 2.000 Brasília, DF

Dr. Ivo Farenzena Médico Veterinário Unidade de Contrôle de Vacinas Rua Vicente Lopes dos Santos, 340, apto. 13 Porto Alegre, RS

Dr. Adolfo Menezes da Silveira Assistente de Planejamento Agropecuário Coordenadoria de Assistência Técnica Integral (CATI) Av. Brasil, 2340 Campinas, SP

#### COLOMBIA

Dr. Josué Franco Mendoza Gerente General Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA) Calle 37, nº 8-47, piso 8 Bogotá

# REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES (cont')

COLOMBIA

Dr. Pedro L. Velásquez Subgerente de Producción Pecuaria Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA) Calle 37, nº 8-43, piso 8 Bogotá

CHILE

Dr. Jepherson Johnston Carcamo Jefe Departamento Laboratorios División Protección Pecuaria Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG) Casilla de correo 4527 - Correo 2 Avenida Ecuador nº 3493 Santiago

Dr. Héctor Zegers Quesney
Unidad Educación Sanitaria
División Protección Pecuaria
Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (SAG)
Casilla de correo 4527 - Correo 2
Avenida Portales 3396
Santiago

ECUADOR

Dr. Manuel María Moscoso Condor Director del Programa Nacional de Sanidad Animal (PNSA) Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería Casilla de correo 108 Edificio San Blas Quito

PARAGUAY

Dr. Juan Pablo Romero Presidente y Jefe Administrativo Servicio Nacional de Salud Animal (SENACSA) Km 10-1/2 Ruta Mcal. Estigarribia San Lorenzo

PERU

Dr. Lizardo Fernández Contreras
Jefe Ejecutivo del Proyecto Especial
Programa Nacional Control de Fiebre Aftosa
(PE-PNCFA)
Ministerio de Agricultura y Alimentación
Av. Arenales 1139
Lima

# REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES (cont')

URUGUAY Dr. Artigas Figares Lockhart

Director

Dirección de Lucha contra la Fiebre Aftosa

(DILFA)

Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca

Ruta 8, Km 29

Pando

**VENEZUELA** Dr. German Gomez Gutierrez

Director General de Desarrollo Ganadero

Ministerio de Agricultura y Cria

Centro Simon Bolivar Torre Norte - Piso 12

Caracas

#### **OBSERVERS**

CANADA Dr. Julius F. Frank

Director Animal Pathology Division,

Health of Animals

P.O. Box 11300

Ottawa

GREAT BRITAIN Dr. Roger Steele

Veterinary Attaché

British Embassy

Dr. Luis Agote 2412

Buenos Aires, Argentina

HONDURAS Dr. Francisco Madrid Tabora

Convenio Antiaftosa Bilateral

Contraparte Nacional

Secretaría de Recursos Naturales

Tegucigalpa

ITALY Dr. Giorgio Gagliardi

Diretore Istituto Zooprofilattico

delle Venezie

Via Orus 2

Padova

# OBSERVERS (cont')

ITALY

Dr. Renato Zoletto Med. Veterinario Laboratorio Produzione Vaccino Afta Istituto Zooprofilattico delle Venezie Via Orus 2 Padova

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Dr. Ted Rea Dum
Director Latin American Program
Centro America, Panama, Colombia
U.S. Embassy in Panama
P.O. Box 2016
Balboa, Canal Zone

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY Dr. Faustino Contardo Direzione Generale Agricoltura 200 Rue de la Loi Bruxelles, Belgique

FAO

Dr. Frank J. Peritz
Oficial Regional en Producción y Sanidad Animal
Organización de las Naciones Unidas
para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
Oficina Regional para América Latina
Providencia 871
Santiago, Chile

IDB

Dr. Abraham A. Arce Especialista Sanidad Animal Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo 801, 17 street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20577, USA

Dr. Carlos Manuel Villar Subgerente BID Brasil Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento Praia do Flamengo 200, 219 andar Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

Dr. Adolfo Beeck Consultor Regional Agricola Banco Interamericano de Desenvolvimento Praia do Flamengo 200, 219 andar Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (cont')

FAO/PAFMDC Srta. Patricia Chain

Oficial de Comunicaciones

PAHO/WHO Dr. Gustavo Reta Pettersson

Asesor Veterinario Regional DAH Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana 525 Twenty-third Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037, USA

PAHO/PAFMDC

Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga

Director

Dr. Roberto Goić M.

Jefe, Actividades de Asesoría de Campo

Dr. Paul Sutmöller

Jefe de los Laboratorios

Dr. Vicente Astudillo

Bioestadistico

Dr. Felix Rosenberg

Epidemiólogo

Dr. Daniel Abaracon Consultor en Vacunas

Dr. Albino Alonso Fernández

Serologo

Dr. Magnus Stael Söndahl Investigador Asociado

ANNEX III

COSALFA/5

# RESOLUTION I

# VESICULAR DISEASES INFORMATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS the continental information system on vesicular diseases reached a high level of operation in 1977, thus requiring several improvements,

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

#### RESOLVES:

- 1. To include the following information in the monthly reports:
  - (a) identification of the virus subtypes active during the month, and
  - (b) the presence of the types of virus in the geographic coordinates.

# RESOLUTION II

SEMINAR ON REGIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WHEREAS the member countries of the COSALFA possess adequate data and information for epidemiological characterization of foot-and-mouth disease in the different regions; and

WHEREAS the epidemiological studies performed in various countries have detected the necessity of establishing strategies in accordance with the regional characteristics of the sickness, so as to increase their efficacy and efficiency,

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

#### RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, hold a seminar on regional strategies in the control of foot-and-mouth disease, to be held before the COSALFA VIth Regular Meeting.

# RESOLUTION III

#### VESICULAR STOMATITIS

WHEREAS the Pan American Health Organization, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, has drawn up several research projects concerning vesicular stomatitis, in cooperation with Brazil and with countries belonging to the Regional International Plant and Animal Health Organization (OIRSA), respectively; and

WHEREAS those projects fit the needs for research into the disease,

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

#### RESOLVES:

- 1. To recommend that COSALFA member-countries give all possible support to carrying out the projects drawn up by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.
- 2. To encourage the COSALFA member-countries affected by vesicular stomatitis to prepare and execute research projects on the disease, in a way coordinated with the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

# RESOLUTION IV

## PROBLEM OF CATTLE FROM RHODESIA

WHEREAS during the IV Regular Meeting of COSALFA, the Pan American Health Organization was entrusted with the responsibility of obtaining the information required about the introduction into Paraguay of bovines imported from Rhodesia and of recommending the most suitable sanitary measures to the Government of Paraguay;

WHEREAS the Pan American Health Organization carried out its responsibility and recommended to the Paraguayan Government that the animals be slaughtered, as the best measure of avoiding the risks that they represent to the American continent by being imported from a country known to have diseases considered exotic to the Americas;

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the Government of Paraguay did not apply the slaughter recommendation of the Pan American Health Organization and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center; and

WHEREAS the technical regulations of the international sanitary agreements prohibit the introduction of animals coming from countries or continents known to harbor exotic diseases;

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

### RESOLVES:

1. That the member countries that decide to engage in the exchange of animals or by-products of animal origin, with the country in question, shall adopt the legal and technical measures required to guarantee that the problem will not be introduced into their countries.

- 2. That the representatives of COSALFA shall advise their governments of the serious risks involved in importing animals from countries or continents that have, among other diseases, foot-and-mouth disease virus considered as exotic for the Americas, so that this occurrence is not repeated.
- 3. That the member-countries guarantee the existence of national legislation and regulations that allow the proper technical authorities to execute measures aimed at keeping the continent free of exotic agents.

(Approved by the fifth regular meeting, with the abstention of the Venezuelan Delegation. held on March 31, 1978)

# RESOLUTION V

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

WHEREAS it is necessary to apply modern administrative techniques to the management of programs for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, in order to optimize resources and raise the possibility of attaining the goals proposed; and

Keeping in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the First International Seminar on Administration of Programs for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease,

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

#### RESOLVES:

- 1. To recommend that the countries and the Pan American Health Organization promote action leading to the changes required to improve the structure and administrative systems of the foot-and-mouth disease programs and of the animal health sector in general.
- 2. To render priority support to the project of establishing a course on animal health administration provided by the Pan American Health Organization through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.
- 3. To urge that the countries explore the use of available internal resources in order to qualify personnel "in service", in the area of administration, at the director levels of the national animal health services.
- 4. Foster the revision of the curriculum at the university level of veterinary medicine training, so as to incorporate admining tration and management techniques into the studies.

### RESOLUTION VI

### OIL ADJUVANT VACCINES

WHEREAS, with the cooperation of several countries, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has obtained satisfactory results in the production and application of oil adjuvant foot-and-mouth disease vaccines;

WHEREAS the use of those vaccines will lower the costs of vaccination and improve the level of protection afforded to the animals; and

WHEREAS the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center submitted to the Vth Regular Meeting of COSALFA a proposal to establish the mimimum requirements for licensing an oil adjuvant foot-and-mouth disease vaccine,

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 cooperation with the countries, prepare a guide outline for the control, approval and registration of oil adjuvant foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.

# RESOLUTION VII

# STANDARDIZATION OF METHODS FOR CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINES

WHEREAS the use of proven-quality vaccines, together with other sanitary measures, is a basic element in the success of programs which aim at controlling foot-and-mouth disease in South American;

WHEREAS one of the most discussed points in the control of vaccine quality is the lack of data with which to correlate the results obtained by the different methods used in the official laboratories on the continent; and

WHEREAS the use of commom parameters in evaluating the quality of vaccines will signify improved integration of the programs for the control of foot-and-mouth disease,

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

# RESOLVES:

1. To recommend that the COSALFA member countries standardize the methods and procedures utilized in controlling the quality of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.