
BACKGROUND

The Constitution of the Pan American Sanitary Organization provides:

"Chapter III. THE COUNCIL.

Article 8: Functions:

E. The Council shall submit an annual report to the participating Governments".

The Report submitted to the Member Governments, for the period of October 1947 to October 1948, and which was approved by the Second Meeting of the Directing Council, held in Mexico City, October 1948, is included in the "Documents for Reference", under number 10.

PROPOSAL

The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau proposes to the Council, that during its first session, it designate the Committee which is to draft the Annual Report to the Member Governments.

Fred L. Soper
Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

THIRD MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
- REGIONAL COMMITTEE, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION -

LIMA, PERU
October 6-13, 1949

ANNUAL REPORT *
PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
of the
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

TO THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

FROM OCTOBER 1, 1948 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1949

(Based on the Report of the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to the Third Meeting of the Directing Council for the period of October 1948 to September 1949.)

(This Report was prepared by the Committee appointed at the 2nd Plenary Session, on October 7, 1949, composed of ECUADOR and EL SALVADOR.)

* Constitutional Provision: Article VIII, Paragraph E.
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A-57.2
The Final Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Directing Council held in Lima, Peru, during 6-13 October 1949, was approved and signed by the following Delegates to the Directing Council:

Argentina: Dr. Alberto Zwanck
Bolivia: Dr. Carlos Ferrufino
Brazil: Dr. Heitor P. Fróes
Costa Rica: Dr. F. Escalante P.
Chile: Dr. N. Romero
Ecuador: Dr. Egberto García
El Salvador: E. Barrientos
United States of America: H. van Zile Hyde
France: J. Sautet
Haiti: Dr. A. Bellerive
Mexico: J. Zozaya
Panama: Dr. Gmo G. de Paredes, M.D.
Paraguay: F. Vallejo
Peru: A. Alvarez López
Dominican Republic: Dr. A. Lugo S.
Venezuela: Francisco Gómez

The Delegates from Colombia and the Netherlands were present at the session at which the report was approved and did not sign it inasmuch as they had to leave urgently to take their plane.
TECHNICAL WORK

I. Field Work

1. Lima Zone Office

The zone office in Lima, Peru, composed of a physician, an epidemiologist, a sanitary engineer and a public health nurse, has carried out activities which include survey work on potable water supply and a sewage system for Guayaquil; and the incidence of typhoid fever in Medellin, Colombia, in addition to the regular advisory services for the Department of Health of Peru.

Detailed information was collected on the organization of nursing schools in Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia and a teaching manual was prepared relating to the incorporation of public health nursing in the academic program of nursing schools.

2. Guatemala Sector Office

The sector office in Guatemala has continued the program on onchocerciasis, malaria and typhus, maintained through grants-in-aid from the National Institutes of Health of the United States Health Service.

3. El Paso District Office

The health authorities of the United States and Mexico surveyed the venereal disease problem on the border in January 1949, and a consultant from the Bureau held conferences with health officers of both governments pursuant to the Tijuana-San Diego agreement. The officers of the district also carried on preliminary surveys of the tuberculosis problem in the Caribbean area and Central America in May and June 1949.

Advisory services were rendered to the Mexican Border commission for malaria control from July 21 to 24, 1949, and assistance was given to the Poliomyelitis Control Committee in Juarez, Mexico.

4. Sao Paulo Office

The Sao Paulo Office has been entrusted with the management of the supplemental grant of the Brazilian Government, the management of the 1950 Hospital Institute, and the formulation of plans for the establishment of a serological laboratory.

5. Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama

On July 1, 1949 Dr. Nevin S. Scrimshaw was appointed Chief of the Nutrition Section of PASB and is in charge of the Nutrition Institute which is established in a building especially constructed by the Guatemalan Government for this purpose. The Institute was equipped and staffed
with personnel from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras who had received special training through fellowships provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

II - Scientific Investigations in Guatemala

1. Onchocerciasis

With technical personnel consisting of one physician, one entomologist and one parasitologist, work on the relative value of Hetrazan and Suramin has been developed; the first seems to have efficacious results on the microfilariae only, while the second apparently destroys the adult worm.

Investigations on the entomological aspects of the *Simulium* flies have continued; three or four new species have been discovered, and the habits of the suspected vector flies have been revealed. In the course of parasitological studies, microfilariae have been found in cattle and horses.

Round table discussions on Onchocerciasis were held in Mexico City at which time cases of the disease were reported in Venezuela. A visit was made to Guatemala in order to observe the work being carried out there.

2. Malaria

Studies on the evaluation of new drugs, started in 1948, have continued; surveys have been carried out to determine the splenic and parasitic indices in various military areas. Specific drugs have been administered in various communities, to certain groups, in order to determine their relative values in the prophylaxis and treatment of the disease.

3. Typhus

The three-year agreement between the PASB and the Public Health Service of Guatemala was extended for another year. This agreement had terminated in June 1949. A large part of the population of the endemic area has been vaccinated and more emphasis given to the use of DDT.

4. Venereal Disease

The Training Center has continued its program to instruct the personnel and standardize methods for serological laboratories. Inspection visits have been made to the other Central American countries to determine the condition of laboratories and serological methods in use; meetings have been held with candidates for training and information has been given to Directors of Laboratories on the modern serological technique for the diagnosis of venereal disease and the equipment necessary to do the work.
The Bureau granted fellowships to applicants from Central America who completed the first course of study in June 1949. On the 22nd of the same month, a short intensive course was inaugurated for technicians and another two-week course was offered to technicians in charge of serological analysis. Fellowships have been given to eight physicians of Central America and the Caribbean area for the course which started on September 5, 1949, and a fellowship was granted to a Guatemalan technician to carry on studies during three months in the Venereal Disease Laboratories, Stapleton, Staten Island, New York.

III. Eradication of Vectors

In order to continue the eradication campaign of the *Aedes aegypti*, technical information has been furnished to the following countries:

**Argentina**: Two areas where considerable progress has been achieved. The most difficult problem seems to be the eradication of the vector in the city of Buenos Aires.

**Brazil**: According to unofficial reports, the *Aedes aegypti* seem to be disappearing very rapidly in a small area in the northwestern part of Brazil. Medical officers and health inspectors of Brazil have helped in the orientation campaign of eleven Latin American countries.

**Ecuador**: The *Aedes aegypti* is disappearing from the coastal area of Ecuador.

**Panama**: The campaign was intensified in Panama after the confirmation of 5 fatal cases during this period in Pacora.

An active campaign is being carried on in all the countries of Central America, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela and British Guiana. Satisfactory progress in the program for the eradication of *Aedes aegypti* has been achieved with the help of personnel and materials furnished by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The training of personnel and organization of services continue in the Central American countries as well as in the Island of Aruba.

IV. Special Services for Governments

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau aided in obtaining and shipping radioisotopes which were furnished by the United States Atomic Energy Commission at the request of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.
Equipment for four bacteriological laboratories, one pathological laboratory and five dental clinics was purchased and shipped to Costa Rica.

Technical assistance was furnished for programs in sanitary engineering to Brazil, especially to the State of Bahia; and also to the Republic of Cuba.

Smallpox vaccine was obtained from Chile, Brazil and the United States for the outbreak of the disease which occurred in Cuba.

The services of specialists from the United States were secured and sent to the Dominican Republic to demonstrate control methods during an outbreak of equine encephalomyelitis.

Medical supplies for the prevention of epidemics were sent to Ecuador immediately after the Ambato earthquake.

As soon as it was learned that an outbreak of yellow fever had occurred in Panama, especially trained personnel with a large quantity of vaccine were sent there. A program of mass vaccination was carried out in the rural communities, as were measures for the eradication of Aedes aegypti with DDT in towns and villages. Viscerotomy posts were established in the interior and blood samples were collected from humans and monkeys throughout the Republic.

ADMINISTRATIVE PART

1. Activities of the Central Office

Administrations

The Division of Public Health was organized in January of 1949 with one medical officer and one assistant, under which the sections of Hospital Administration, Nursing, Nutrition, Sanitary Engineering, Veterinary Public Health and others have been placed, with such personnel as has been considered necessary for each Section.

The Section of Hospital Planning and Management is a technical consulting office for the survey, planning, preparation of equipment lists and giving advice regarding modern methods of hospital administration.

The Nursing Section had charge of the organization of the Regional Nursing Congresses held in Costa Rica and Peru, where a report was presented on a survey made of schools of nursing in Latin America.
Material is being compiled for a reference library on nursing.

Information has been given on academic programs, and literature has been furnished on the construction and planning of schools for nurses. One nurse was sent by the World Health Organization to Haiti to participate in a program of health education.

The Sanitary Engineering Section has given considerable time to the activities of the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering in addition to the activities that have been already mentioned.

A study was made of the administrative methods of the World Health Organization. The Staff Regulations and Rules were prepared by a Special Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization. A Manual for Subject Classification was prepared for use in the filing system of the Bureau.

Inventories of non-expendable equipment have been completed.

Office correspondence has increased to fourteen times the volume of that of September of 1948.

Since January 1, 1949, a complete reorganization of the Fiscal Office has taken place.

2. Veterinary Public Health

The Chief of this Section attended conferences in Mexico covering the training of personnel for the campaign against rabies in the United States-Mexico border areas. Agreements were signed with the Mexican Department of Health on rabies in the wildlife.

A survey of the hydatidosis problem in Latin America was completed.

3. Epidemiological Reports

The Statistical Section prepared and distributed to the Health Authorities of the Member States a guide to facilitate the preparation of epidemiological reporting.

Reports on diseases subject to quarantine and communicable diseases were prepared and distributed promptly by air mail.

Epidemiological reports of major importance were cabled to the Health Authorities and pertinent recommendations covering quarantine requirements were also sent to them.
4. Fellowships

In addition to the fellowships already mentioned, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau handled the awards of the Venezuelan Government for the course on malaria offered to various Latin American countries. The Bureau has also assumed the responsibility for the administration of the fellowship program of the World Health Organization.

5. Bulletin

The Bulletin of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau is up-to-date with reference to material published, and in addition a bound volume of the Proceedings of the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference has been published. A bibliography on Onchocerciasis is in the process of preparation, as are the scientific papers presented at the VI Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, held in Mexico.

6. The Library

Since February 1949, the services of the Library have been completely organized under the supervision of a qualified librarian.

7. Supply Section

The Supply Section has been rendering service to 20 Member Governments during the present year. Requests have covered a variety of needs such as office material, vaccine, supplies for hospitals and clinics. Afghanistan and India were aided by the Supply Section (see page 39 of Director's Report (Document CD3.L-5).

8. Legal Adviser

A full-time legal adviser has been employed by the Bureau.

9. Information Material

Leaflets related to public information of general interest and of the activities of the Bureau and the epidemiological and statistical reports of the WHO have been regularly distributed.

10. Agreements and Cooperative Projects


The Third Meeting of the Directing Council agreed to invite the Member States of the WHO who have no seat of government in the Western Hemisphere to participate on the same basis as the American Republics in meetings of the Directing Council as Regional Committee of WHO.

In July 1949, an agreement was signed for the control of venereal disease on the United States-Mexico border. The existing agreement covering typhus control in Guatemala was extended. At the present time, a program for the eradication of yaws in Haiti is underway and a similar program is being planned for the Dominican Republic. At its Third Meeting, the Directing Council approved a draft agreement between the Bureau and the Organization of the American States; the Director of the PASB was authorized to sign the agreement. (see Final Report of the Third Meeting of the Directing Council)

II. Cooperation with other Organizations

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Director of the Bureau submitted reports on the UNICEF programs for Latin America at the request of the Director of the UNICEF. Consent of the health authorities was obtained for these programs, which include campaigns against yaws, malaria, typhus, diphtheria and whooping cough, and for a study of the effects of BCG in combating tuberculosis in various countries of Latin America.

The Bureau has also offered its cooperation in connection with specific projects of the UNESCO in Latin America.

The Bureau cooperated in the work carried out by an officer of the U. S. Public Health Service on a special report of health conditions in Colombia, which was requested by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

The Bureau has maintained close contact with the FAO in connection with the work of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama.

The Director of the Bureau and members of the committee in charge of the survey of tuberculosis problems in Latin America held a meeting to determine the objectives of the program for 1949.
(Report of the Directing Council of the PASB (October 1948-September 1949)

(a) Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization - May 1949

(b) Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Organization - October 1949

(c) Second World Health Assembly - June-July 1949

(d) Fifth Meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization - July 1949

(e) Study Committee on Syphilis, of the World Health Organization - August 1949

(f) Joint Committee of the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund - April 1949

2. **Conferences and Meetings Convened or Co-sponsored by the Bureau**:

(a) Border Meeting on Health between Argentina and Chile - Santiago - November 8-12, 1948

(b) Second Inter-American Congress on Brucellosis - November 1948

(c) Round Table Conference on Onchocerciasis - February 1949

(d) Conference on Rabies, Mexico-United States - April 1949

(e) Meeting of Biochemists, Clinical Nutritionists, Agricultural and Nutrition Instructors - July 1949

(f) Regional Nursing Congresses - September 1949

3. **Other Conferences and Meetings at which Representatives of the Bureau were present**:

(a) Pan American Public Health Association - 1948

(b) American Society of Tropical Medicine - 1948

(c) First Pan American Pharmacy Congress - December 1-8, 1948
(d) VIII Pan American Congress on Tuberculosis  
- January 1949

(e) Statistical Committee of the Inter-American Institute for the 1950 Census in the Americas  
- February 1949

(f) Sub-Committee on Foreign Medical Credentials, American Medical Association  
- March 1949

(g) Conference of the National Tuberculosis Association with Representatives of Medical Schools  
- April 1949

(h) IV Conference of the American Member States of the International Labor Organization  
- April-May 1949

(i) Seventh Annual Meeting of the Mexico-United States Border Health Association  
- April 1949

(j) First International Congress of Civil Engineering  
- April-May 1949

(k) Sixth Conference of the Inter-American Lawyers Association  
- May 1949

(l) Second Session of the United Nations Economic Committee for Latin America  
- May-June 1949

(m) Conference of the International Nurses Council  
- June 1949

(n) Meeting on Chagas' Disease, Tucuman, Argentina  
- July 1949

(o) Second Pan American Social Service Congress  
- July 1949

(p) UNESCO Seminar on Education of Adult Illiterates, Rio de Janeiro  
- July-September 1949

(q) Technical Meeting on Agricultural Development  
- August 1949

A-57-12
The Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau was held in Washington, D. C., May 21-30, 1949. The proceedings of this Meeting appear in Document CE7.W-17.

Pursuant to the first recommendation of the Seventh Meeting, the Director of the Bureau submitted for consideration an operating program for 1950 which represents an improvement over previous years, since it contains detailed information enabling the Directing Council to make careful study of the various items of expenditure and to give financial support to each particular program in accordance with its relative importance.

The various recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee were included in the Agenda of the Third Meeting of the Directing Council. Among these recommendations was the preparation of a preliminary draft of the Staff Rules and Regulations for Bureau personnel.

The Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Lima, Peru, October 3-5, 1949 (see Document CE8.L-17). The resolutions of the Committee were passed to the Agenda of the Working Sub-Committees, at their Third Meeting. The resolution of the previous Meeting of the Executive Committee was modified with regard to changing the item on the Permanent Headquarters of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in place of the discussion on the construction of a building in Washington.

The Resolutions of the Directing Council regarding these recommendation appear in the Final Report of the Third Meeting of the Directing Council, which follows: