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EPIDEMIOLOGIST
DR. CLIFFORD R. ESKEY
United States Public Health Service

SCIENTIFIC EDITOR AND CHIEF TRANSLATOR
DR. ARISTIDES A. MOLL
DELEGATES TO THE SECOND PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH ON THEIR VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, APRIL 21, 1931

The President of the United States and Surg. Gen. H. S. Cumming appear in the center of the photograph. Names of delegates will be found on page 2.
SECOND PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

HELD IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 20-25, 1931
Under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The Second Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health began its sessions in the City of Washington at 10 a. m. April 20, 1931, the first meeting being presided over by the Director General of the Pan American Union, Dr. Leo S. Rowe, who delivered the address which appears in the General Transactions. Immediately following, addresses of welcome were made by Hon. Francis White, Assistant Secretary of State, and Surg. Gen. Hugh S. Cumming, the latter in his capacity as director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Later, Dr. C. E. Paz Soldán, honorary president, and Dr. Justo F. González, member of the directing council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, addressed the meeting. In reply speeches were made by the delegates of the various Republics represented, including Dr. João Pedro de Albuquerque and Dr. Solón Núñez, who also represented the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. These speeches appear in the General Transactions.

The first plenary session of the conference was held on April 20 in the afternoon under the provisional presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

In accordance with the program, the following officers were unanimously elected for the conference:

President, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming.
Vice president, Dr. Gregorio Aráoz Alfaro.
General secretary, Dr. Waldemar Coutts.
Executive secretary, Dr. Aristides A. Moll.

The following committees were named by acclamation:

Credentials.—Dr. João Pedro de Albuquerque, Dr. Fernando Rensoll, Dr. José Ramón Durón, Dr. Miguel Bustamante.
Rules of procedure.—Dr. R. Kraus, Dr. Carlos Padilla, Dr. Porfirio Domínguez, Dr. Hugo Roberts.
Resolutions.—Dr. Bolívar J. Lloyd, Dr. Solón Núñez, Dr. Rodolphe Charpentier, Dr. Waldemar Coutts, Dr. C. E. Paz Soldán.
Program for the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference.—Dr. Gregorio Aráoz Alfaro, Dr. C. E. Paz Soldán, Dr. Justo F. González, Dr. Carlos J. Bello, Dr. Solón Núñez.

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Following a report made by the chairman of the corresponding committee, Doctor Albuquerque, the credentials of the following delegates were approved:

Argentina: Dr. Gregorio Aráoz Altara.
Brazil: Dr. João Pedro de Albuquerque.
Costa Rica: Dr. Solón Núñez.
Chile: Dr. R. Kraus, Dr. Waldemar E. Coutts.
Cuba: Dr. Fernando Rensoli, Dr. Hugo Roberts.
Salvador: Dr. Carlos Leiva.
United States: Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Dr. Bolivar J. Lloyd, Dr. F. A. Carmelita, Dr. Tallaferrr Clark, Dr. W. L. Treadway, Dr. Robert Pierret (consultant).
Guatemala: Dr. Carlos Padilla.
Haiti: Dr. Rodolphe Charmant.
Honduras: Dr. José Ramón Durán.
Mexico: Dr. Miguel Bustamante.
Dominican Republic: Dr. Porfirio Domínguez.
Venezuela: Dr. Carlos J. Bello.

In accordance with regulations governing the conference, Dr. C. E. Paz Soldán, Honorary President, and Dr. Justo F. González, Member of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, sat as ex officio members. In the same manner Dr. A. A. Moll, scientific editor of the Bulletin of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, was also received as an ex officio member of the conference.

The sessions which took place in the morning and the afternoon of each day from April 20 to 25, 1931, presented, as will be seen in the records of the General Transactions, excellent opportunities for the exchange of ideas on the diverse and important problems which confront the health authorities of the various Republics.

SPECIAL VOTE

TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Latin American Delegates to the Second Pan American Conference of Directors of Health officially express their profound gratitude to the President of the United States of America, the Hon. Herbert Hoover, for his cordial reception, and for the encouraging message sent by him to the conference. This message shows not only the deep interest which President Hoover has in the public health but also his extensive knowledge of the subject.

It is agreed, therefore, that this declaration be recorded in the Acta Final, and that its text be transmitted, in proper form, to His Excellency the Hon. Herbert Hoover, President of the United States of America.
MOTIONS APPROVED

The Second Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health approved the following motions:

CONDOLENCE TO SANTO DOMINGO AND NICARAGUA

A vote of condolence to the Governments of Santo Domingo and Nicaragua for the catastrophes recently suffered by these countries.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

It is agreed to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery as an expression of solidarity with the United States of America.

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CODE

In view of a letter received from the Government of Colombia stating that that country had ratified the Pan American Code, the conference agrees to send its congratulations, and at the same time to request those countries which have not yet ratified the code to endeavor to do so as soon as possible.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

Profound appreciation is expressed to Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, for his cooperation throughout the conference and for his cordial hospitality.

DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Gratitude and appreciation are accorded to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, for his successful and cordial direction of the deliberations of the conference.

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

Appreciation is expressed to the staff of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for its work in connection with the conference and for its preparation of the program.

SIR GEORGE BUCHANAN AND DR. R. PIERRET

Gratitude is expressed for the cooperation of Sir George Buchanan in presenting a draft to the conference of his observations on the recently proposed agreement on aerial navigation, and also to Doctor Cumming for having invited Dr. R. Pierret, whose participation in the conference has been of great value.

BUBONIC PLAGUE

Having noted the results obtained in the antiplague campaign as set forth in the reports of the representatives of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau, in collaboration with the respective governments on the west coast of South America, this work is highly commended, and a vote of appreciation is extended to Drs. John D. Long and Clifford R. Eskey. At the same time the attention of those Governments in whose territories plague is endemic is invited to the importance and the advantage of permanent deratization as an indispensable and economic method of combating plague.

BULLETIN OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

As an act of equity and justice, a vote of appreciation is extended to the staff of the Bulletin of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the excellent work achieved in this publication devoted to the interests of the public health.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

A vote of appreciation is extended to the executive officers of the conference, comprising Drs. H. S. Cumming, president; Gregorio Aráoz Alfaro, vice president; Waldemar Coutts, general secretary; and Arístides A. Moll, executive secretary; and also to Dr. Bolivar J. Lloyd, assistant to the director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, for the successful manner in which the tasks of this important assembly have been carried out.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered in detail the proposed regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease in aerial transportation, as prepared by an authorized committee of the Office International d’Hygiène Publique, together with various amendments suggested, modifying the original text, it is resolved:

(a) That in general the conference is in accord with the spirit of these proposed regulations particularly in so far as the necessity for taking strict but reasonable precautions in the areas where conventional diseases exist, is concerned.

(b) That the conference, while recognizing the desirability of preventing duplication in the application of such measures as disinfection, fumigation, deratization, detention of passengers and vaccination, believes it unwise to place the burden of such measures entirely on the country where conventional diseases exist, or to accept without reserve certification to the effect that all necessary measures have been carried out when there may be a reasonable doubt that the carrier, personnel, or cargo is free from the danger of conveying a conventional disease.

(c) The conference recognizes the impracticability of drafting other than very general measures when dealing with countries widely
SECOND CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

separated, of varying areas and of varying densities of population. The fact is also recognized that sanitary conditions and the incidence of conventional diseases are factors that are constantly changing, and the conference believes it unwise to adopt other than very flexible rules and regulations governing the control of the spread of conventional diseases.

(d) It recommends that the modifications proposed by this conference be considered by the conference which is about to take place in Paris. (These modifications are to be found in the general proceedings of the conference, and have been drafted after careful study and deliberation.)

CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

After extensive discussion, and having obtained the opinion of experts on communicable diseases from the Public Health Service of the United States, it is—

Resolved: That as knowledge of the causes, sources of infection, and manner of transmitting these diseases increases, final disinfection is, in consequence, found to be less frequently necessary: Provided always that proper measures for preventing their spread have been taken during their course.

Information regarding such measures may be obtained from publications of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. It is recommended that, in general, persons suffering from infectious disease should be hospitalized and that specialized services be created for the care of such cases.

STANDARDS FOR BIOLOGIC PRODUCTS

In order to obtain greater security and efficacy in the treatment of diseases in which serums, vaccines, or special chemical and organotherapeutic products are used, it is recommended that such preparations be standardized in accordance with the most appropriate methods, these to be published by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and sent to all departments of health of the countries of this continent; in accordance with a resolution of the Sixth International American Conference of 1928, the calling is proposed, under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, of a conference whose duty would be to establish standards for these products to guide all American institutions specializing in their preparation and control.

HEALTH EDUCATION

With the objects of improving medical and scientific research in America, it is recommended:

(1) That the exchange of experts in different scientific activities be facilitated in order that studies may be made of the different methods used in such work in the several countries.
(2) That fellowships be instituted to aid in training public-health workers and furnishing postgraduate courses to such workers.

(3) That interchange should be so regulated that special experts, when required, may be available for service in other countries.

(4) That institutions manufacturing serum and vaccines should aid each other in cases of emergency.

YELLOW FEVER

Yellow fever is declared to be a possible menace to this continent and in view of the statement made before the conference by Dr. F. F. Russell, of the Rockefeller Foundation, to the effect that this disease is still a potential danger to all countries in which conditions are favorable for its development, it is agreed to invite the attention of all Governments concerned to the necessity of maintaining a strict vigilance with regard to this disease and over potential foci. It is recommended that surveys be made to determine the existence of unrecognized foci of this disease, such as practiced by the Rockefeller Foundation, and that this work be continued until completion, and the different Governments are urged to aid these investigations in every way possible.

PLAGUE

In view of data submitted indicating that plague has disappeared from certain localities on the Pacific coast of America as a result of well-formulated and scientific deratization campaigns, it is resolved that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau should send to the Governments of the various countries, through official channels, information regarding the results of this campaign, and the possibility of practically eradicating this disease on this continent, by maintaining the appropriations necessary for such work.

TUBERCULOSIS

In view of the constant concern caused by tuberculosis in all the countries of America and of the necessity of reducing our present high mortality rates, it is resolved that the campaign against tuberculosis, particularly the study of vaccination against this disease, be included as a subject in the program of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference, and that the Pan American Sanitary Bulletin continue the publication of information concerning progress in combating tuberculosis.

MALARIA AND UNCINARIASIS

Considering the fact that the inhabitants of many tropical countries of America are constantly struggling against malaria and uncinariasis, and that these anemia-producing diseases cause many victims and physically impoverish large groups of population, it is
resolved that rural sanitation be made a topic for study by the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

With the object of extending the work of combating ophthalmia neonatorum it is recommended that Governments which have not yet done so, should intensify their campaigns against this disease and that they furnish without charge, especially to midwives, and in proper containers, those drugs that are used in the prevention of this disease.

LEPROSY

That the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference make leprosy, especially the prophylaxis of this disease, one of its topics for consideration.

OPHIDISM

In view of the many victims among rural workers, and even among scientists, of bites by venomous snakes, it is recommended:

(1) That legislation be secured affording protection against ophidism, which will oblige States and municipalities in infested localities to keep on hand a supply of dependable serum in order to furnish it gratuitously to the indigent when bitten; provided, however, that when such persons are employed on a plantation the proprietor shall be required to keep on hand this supply of serum.

(2) To conduct a campaign of education to popularize the use of scientifically prepared serums in order to discourage the exploitation of the masses by quacks.

(3) To carry out the suggestion made by the delegate from Mexico, to the effect that these measures should be extended to protect those bitten by spiders and scorpions.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In view of the interest and importance of this subject it is recommended that the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference study and report upon the safest and best methods of vaccinating against smallpox, these studies to include the production of a safe and potent vaccine.

VENEREAL DISEASES

To combat congenital syphilis, it is recommended that measures be instituted:

(1) To advise prospective mothers to attend clinics or health centers, either public or private, in order that serological examinations may be made to determine whether or not they are free from syphilis.

(2) To instruct midwives how to take specimens of placental blood for examination.
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(3) To secure the cooperation of midwives in advising women who are pregnant to undergo a serological examination.

(4) To perform necropsies on stillborn infants and to make serological examinations of the mothers of stillborn children.

(5) To secure legislation which will require parents to bear the responsibility for the physical, mental, and moral welfare and development of their children.

In order to lessen the incidence of venereal diseases, among the highest of all diseases, especially in America, it is also recommended:

That this subject be included in the program of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference with a view to determine the most effective methods for combating these diseases, including both prophylactic methods and methods of sociological reform.

ONCHOCERCIASIS

Recognizing the seriousness of onchocerciasis as determined from data submitted by the delegates from Mexico and Guatemala, and in view of its prevalence and potential danger, it is recommended that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau consult the health authorities of the two Republics named to determine whether or not they would be willing to accept collaboration from institutions located in other American countries which might be interested in the study of this disease.

EUGENICS

Bearing in mind the ever-increasing importance of eugenics in many countries it is resolved that the discussion of this subject by the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference would be of material benefit.

DEMOGRAPHY

The increasing value of vital statistics having been definitely proved, it is recommended that this subject be discussed by the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference with a view to the establishment of departments of demography in countries where this has not already been done, and that where such departments already exist their activities be extended.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In view of the transcendent importance of a safe and adequate water supply and of the sanitary disposal of sewage, the desirability of placing these public utilities under the jurisdiction or joint supervision of the health authorities is reiterated, the object being the improvement of the public health, the reduction of general and infant mortality, and especially the prevention of water-borne diseases. The importance of an adequate water supply in the control and eradication of yellow fever is also recognized. The conference suggests
the establishment of standard methods of water analysis as to chemical and bacteriological content, physical state, and geohydrological condition. The conference advises the use of the methods recommended by the American Public Health Association.

NUTRITION AND ALIMENTATION

Considering ever-increasing interest in nutrition and alimentation observed in various countries in America, it is resolved:

(1) To recommend to those Governments that have not yet undertaken studies of these subjects that they should do so with the idea of making practical application of the knowledge available, and that the Bulletin of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau should continue to publish accounts of progress in order to disseminate new information; and that these topics should be made the object of further study in the next Pan American Sanitary Conference.

(2) In recognition of the facilities available in the United States of America for the study of the foregoing subjects, the conference gives a vote of thanks to the scientific investigators and representatives of health departments engaged in this work, and also to those institutions which are collaborating in the solution of this important medical-social problem.

MILK

The conference recommends that all measures for the safeguarding of milk, including pasteurization, should be under the supervision of the national public health services.

NARCOTIC DRUGS

In considering the problem of the limitation and control of the use of narcotic drugs, it is—

Resolved, That persevering, increasing, and cooperative efforts should be made to suppress the abuse of narcotic drugs.

With this object in view the conference recommends the control of production and of traffic in narcotics by adequate legislation. It recognizes the necessity of cooperation on the part of all nations, the desirability of interchange of information between Governments to prevent illicit traffic, the importance of preventing the clandestine entry of these drugs into the countries concerned, and the necessity of limiting their use to medical and scientific purposes.

The conference emphasizes the necessity of limiting the manufacture of narcotics to such quantities as may be required for scientific and medical uses only, in order that all countries may be free from the dangers of illicit traffic, and considers that this problem should be made the subject of study and discussion by subsequent conferences.

It was also recommended that cognizance be taken of the special situation of those American countries which produce coca, suggesting
to them that they adopt a policy of governmental control or monopoly for the storage and sale of this product and its derivatives, particularly in international commerce, such traffic to be under direct control of the Government. Such Governments are invited to give this recommendation due consideration in the interest of national and of international welfare, not only of the countries of America but of all the world.

It is also recommended that measures such as the following be adopted by international conventions on narcotics:

(a) Prohibit shipments of narcotic drugs to other countries without the authorization in each case of the health department of the country to which they are being sent.

(b) Prohibit the sending of narcotics by parcel post.

(c) Mutual notification of the finding of contraband and its place of origin or transshipment, in order that the guilty may be punished and their activities prevented.

(d) Mutual notification of those narcotic drugs that have been added to the list of habit-forming drugs.

(e) Recognition of the right of every country to take such measures as may be necessary for its safety in addition to conventional agreements.

(f) Recognition of the advantage of interchange of information regarding local measures for narcotic control, and also of the prohibition of the importation of any drug or any synthetic product that may produce addiction.

With further reference to the illicit use of narcotics and their deleterious effects, moral and physical, on the young, it is recommended that all American countries carry on an effective campaign of education for the purpose of forming a sound public opinion which will condemn these dangerous practices.

SANITARY ORGANIZATION

The following measures are recommended to all countries affiliated with the Pan American Union:

(1) The creation of schools of hygiene and public health and of similar institutions for the education and training of persons desiring to engage in such work.

(2) The heads of public-health services should be provided with trained assistants as a guaranty of efficient administration for the safety of their own country and of others as well. Such sanitary organization would be an excellent foundation for progress in public health in benefit of the entire continent.

(3) Each American country should, with this object in view, establish efficient permanent health services throughout its territory.

(4) It is suggested that these recommendations be transmitted to
the Seventh International Conference of American States, which is to meet in the near future in the city of Montevideo, in order that they may be incorporated in the laws of the nations of the New World, as a guaranty of the conservation and of improvement in the health of the peoples of the Americas.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

It is recommended that Governments should appropriate, subject to the limitations of their resources, all the funds possible for public health activities, and that the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference should indicate the amount per capita which may reasonably be asked for the support of public-health work.

TREATMENT OF THE SICK IN HOSPITALS

The fact is recognized that the care of children, mothers, the aged, mental cases, and the sick in general constitutes an important factor in public health; that in many American Republics there already exists ample correlation between treatment of the sick and the prevention of disease, and that, in some countries, these activities are combined in a department of the government, a plan which is convenient of administration and of undisputed benefit to the public health. However, there are other countries in which these activities are not properly coordinated and in which efforts are sometimes antagonistic. It is believed that hospitalization of the sick should be a function of the health department (merging sometimes with public health administration). It is therefore proposed that in those countries where this has not been done, all institutions such as hospitals, maternity homes, asylums, and similar institutions be placed under the immediate direction or, at least, under the supervision of the officers of public health, and that the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference include this proposal in its program of preferential study.

CHILD WELFARE AND MATERNITY

Considering:

(a) The importance of adequate protection of mothers and children in new and sparsely populated countries, as most American countries are, the object of such protection being not only to save the lives of the greatest possible number of children but also to produce a sound and vigorous race;

(b) The high infant mortality rate which still prevails in many American countries in marked contrast to that seen in those which have taken active measures to promote child and maternal welfare;

(c) The loss of effort and money occasioned in many countries of America because of the need of cooperation among the different welfare organizations designed for the protection of child and mother,
and because of the lack of a central department to coordinate and
direct their activities.

The conference recommends with insistence that those American
Governments which have not yet satisfactorily resolved this im-
portant medico-social problem should establish in their official health
services, in conformity with modern concepts, efficient special divi-
sions of child and maternal hygiene under competent technical direc-
tion, which should centralize and study these problems in detail and
prepare and carry on specific programs of child and maternal wel-
fare—to the end that such offices of welfare may be maintained and
coordinated in all public and private institutions dedicated to ma-
ternity and infancy.

SERVICES OF SOCIAL HYGIENE

The conference recommends to the several countries the urgent
necessity of creating services of social hygiene, actually necessary in
the application of scientific measures discovered in the field of pre-
ventive medicine, believing as it does that it is necessary to take into
consideration the individual and his surroundings and present to him
the measures sought to be implanted in tangible form suited to his
individual, mental, and moral development.

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CODE

In order to perfect international relations with regard to matters
of hygiene and public health in the Americas it is believed advisable
that the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference should study those
provisions of the Pan American Sanitary Code which may not have
been complied with, or those which for some reason have been made
subject to reservation by certain signatory Governments, with a view
to agreeing upon such interpretations of the intent of these provisions
as will permit of more effective application.

PROGRAM OF THE NINTH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

After considering the report of the committee on the program for
the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference the following topics
which are among those receiving most votes from the countries circu-
larized are suggested for inclusion in the program of the Ninth Pan
American Sanitary Conference:

1. Hospitals.
2. Campaign against venereal diseases.
3. Vaccination against smallpox.
4. Malaria.
5. Narcotics and special drugs.
6. The problem of alimentation in the Americas.
7. Milk.
8. Tropical diseases.
(9) Bubonic plague.
(10) School hygiene.
(11) Eugenics.
(12) Tuberculosis, and in particular vaccination against this dis-

ease.

The closing session took place on Saturday, April 25, 1931, at 3
p. m. under the presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming. The Director
General of the Pan American Union, Dr. L. S. Rowe, Dr. G. Aráoz
Alfaro (representing the Latin-American delegates), and Dr. Hugh
S. Cumming addressed the meeting. Their remarks are of record in
the General Transactions of the conference.

Signed in the city of Washington on the 25th day of April, 1931,
it having been agreed that a copy of this Act should be sent to each of
the delegations, and furthermore, that a copy should be sent to each
of the American Governments (Republics), through diplomatic chan-
nels, and finally, that the original shall be kept in the office of the
Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

G. Aráoz Alfaro
(Vice President).

HUGH S. CUMMING
(President).

JOÃO PEDRO DE ALBUQUERQUE
(Brazil).

WALDEMAR E. COUTTS
(General Secretary).

SOLON NÚÑEZ
(Costa Rica).

F. RENSOLI
(Cuba).

H. ROBERTS
(Cuba).

P. DOMINICI
(Dominican Republic).

R. KRAUS
(Chile).

CARLOS J. BELLO
(Venezuela).

J. R. DURÓN
(Honduras).

M. E. BUSTAMANTE
(Mexico).

BOLIVAR J. LLOYD
(United States).

R. PIERRET
(Consultant U. S. A.,
Delegate).

CARLOS LEIVA
(Salvador).

C. PADILLA
(Guatemala).

R. CRARMANT
(Haiti).

JUSTO R. GONZÁLEZ
(Member of the Directing
Council of the Pan
American Sanitary Bu-
reau).

CARLOS ENRIQUE PAZ SOLDÁN
(Honorary Director, Pan
American Sanitary Bu-
reau).

F. A. CARMELIA
(United States).

TALIAFERRO CLARK
(United States).

ARISTIDES A. MOLL (Executive Secretary).
Surg. Gen. Hugh S. Cummin,  
President of the Second Pan American  
Conference of Directors of Health, Washington, D. C.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Conference:

It has been most gratifying to me to be able to receive and welcome you individually on the occasion of your Second Quinquennial Meeting in the Capital of this Republic.

I now take the opportunity of expressing to you collectively my sympathetic interest in your present important deliberations, which are for the purpose of protecting the health and promoting the well-being of all the people of all the American Republics. Indeed, if I may judge from your program, your recommendations with regard to yellow fever and aerial transportation will have profound effect throughout the world.

It is pleasant to recall that, during the last 30 years, through advances made in the science of medicine and through the cooperation of the health authorities of all the American Republics, as manifested in your Pan American Sanitary Conferences, in the activities of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and in your conferences of Directors of Health, the ravages of the major quarantinable diseases, such as yellow fever, plague, cholera, smallpox and typhus fever, diseases which formerly often decimated whole cities, have nearly ceased. These pestilences are now almost entirely robbed of their power for harm. This being the case, you are able to turn your attention to the combating of other diseases and other unhealthful conditions which still interfere with the happiness and comfort of our people.

I note with satisfaction in your program the provision for the interchange of ideas with regard to the securing of safe water supplies, safe milk, the prevention of blindness, the welfare of the child, the study of nutrition, and of many other interesting and important topics.

I wish to bid you Godspeed in your humanitarian work.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) Herbert Hoover.