



**SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MALARIA ERADICATION**

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INTERNATIONAL POLICIES IN MALARIA ERADICATION

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I could easily present my views on this matter by saying amen to what has been said by Dr. Alvarado. However, three times on this trip I have been asked why the United States is so deeply interested in this world wide malaria eradication program. I assure you that my remarks are not intended as propaganda, but as an explanation of our interest in this great humanitarian **undertaking**.

Americans have long been interested in combatting malaria both in their country and abroad. I hardly need mention the very important pioneering in this field by Rockefeller Foundation and other Research Workers which is so well known to all of us.

In 1942 a very intensive malaria control programme was undertaken in the United States. The same year, our government through the Institute of Inter-American Affairs provided technical and financial support for the development of 165 malaria control demonstration projects in Central and South America. Today all of these countries, in fact all countries of the Western Hemisphere except Cuba and Haiti are in the **attack** phase of Malaria Eradication. The two **excepted** countries are planning for eradication.

In 1945 American technical and financial assistance was utilized to begin malaria control operations in Liberia; then later in the Philippines and eventually in a number of Asian and European countries. As a consequence during 1957 the United States financial support to malaria control in other countries was approximately \$11 million.

In fiscal year 1958, the Congress of the United States approved financial support for the world-wide malaria eradication program which had been requested by the countries participating in the World Health Assembly in Mexico in 1955. During the fiscal years 1958, 1959 and 1960 the Congress has appropriated \$27.2, \$26.2 and \$32.0 million to be utilized for this purpose through bi-lateral agreements and through contributions to the Malaria Eradication Special Account (MESA) of WHO

and to the Special Malaria Fund (SMF) of the Pan American Health Organization. Additionally, local expenditures in some countries are being paid with local currency generated by the sale of commodities provided by our government.

Today hundreds of technical malaria workers and approximately \$125 million is being expended on the malaria eradication effort. Even so these presently available technical and financial resources are inadequate for completion of the job. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that there be complete coordination among the national and international agencies involved in this undertaking.

The International Cooperation Administration therefore has agreed to follow the policies established by the World Health Assemblies and the expert committees of WHO. WHO is definitely the proper organization for coordination of the world wide

The present bi-lateral policy of ICA is to provide upon request technical and financial assistance for malaria eradication to those countries where there exists an administrative structure, sufficient local financing and technical indications that eradication is feasible. Of course such assistance can only be provided within the limits of available appropriations for this purpose.

To refer back to Dr. Alvarado's list of major WHO policies, let me say that ICA generally looks to WHO to provide the stimulation and promotion of a malaria eradication programme. We depend on WHO largely to coordinate the program among the countries, but of course we play a joint coordinating role in the matter of technical advisory services.

ICA's greatest role is probably that of supplying technical advisory services and imported supplies and equipment. ICA also participates in the international malaria training centers in Jamaica and the Philippines and provides many fellowships for training. An active research program to better our present eradication methods is in operation. ICA prefers not to subsidize local costs but in some countries local currencies generated through the sale of commodities provided by the United States are available.

May I conclude by saying that our President Eisenhower has proclaimed our participation in this global fight against malaria as one of the Works for Peace.