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EPIDEMIOLOGY

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BATTLE TO CONTAIN DEADLY AMOEBA IN WEST NOT YET WON

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 20 May 83 p 17

[Text]

THE battle with Naegleria fowleri is over for this year. But the man who masterminds WA's fight to contain the deadly amoeba is giving no promises that it will not strike again next summer.

At the ANZAAS congress yesterday, Dr Richard Lugg, of the Department of Public Health, reported on the progress that he and his team had made in tracking down and treating the amoeba.

He said that of 5775 water samples taken, 1403 were found to contain amoeba of some kind. Of these 210 were of the Naegleria family, with six belonging to the fowleri strain.

Pool

They were found in drinking water, in reservoirs and in a swimming pool.

Dr Lugg said that the efficiency with which N. fowleri was able to infect even treated water had caused the team to develop renewed respect for the organism.

He said that the amoeba which thrived in warm conditions had killed 300 people, including about 30 in Australia.

In Perth, two children had died in 1980 after swimming in infected pools.

He warned that it was very simple to reinfect pools which had been treated—by topping up with the garden hose, allowing sprinkler water into the pool or transferring moist soil into the pool on swimmers' feet.

Dr Lugg said that N. fowleri invaded the body through the nose and eventually reached the brain where it fed on the cells, destroying brain tissue. The victim normally died within a week.

CSO: 5400/7584

VACCINATION LAG POSES THREAT OF NEW POLIO EPIDEMIC

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 23 May 83 p 3

[Article by Alex Greig]

[Text]

PARENTS are risking a possible polio epidemic, an authority on the disease warned yesterday.

The president of the Australian Poliomyelitis Welfare Association, Mr David Roberts, said the risk was directly attributable to the apparent lack of concern among parents to having their children vaccinated against the highly contagious disease.

According to Mr Roberts, more and more Australian parents consider the vaccination of their children against polio unnecessary.

The number of parents in this category were increasing at a disturbing rate.

He said: "There have been no reports of polio for some time and parents are saying vaccination is not needed."

Contagious

But Mr Roberts warned that with international airports in every Australian capital city, the potential for the disease to be imported was constant.

There was always a risk of people who had been infected by the disease carrying it into Australia as it was virtually undetectable in its early stages.

Importation of the disease, coupled with low resistance among the population because of a poor vaccination rate, could easily lead to an epidemic situation.

The last Australian epidemics of poliomyelitis, an extremely contagious disease affecting the muscles, occurred in 1948 and 1953.

Mr Roberts said that many thousands of people who had contracted polio during these epidemics were still suffering some form of disability.

"Polio treatment methods have improved, but vaccination is the best way to fight it," he said.

CSO: 5400/7584

BRIEFS

RISE IN WHOOPING COUGH--SYDNEY--A doctor has warned that whooping cough is on the increase in Australia, because not enough children are being vaccinated against the disease. Professor Neil Buchanan, director of Sydney University's department of pediatrics and child health, said yesterday that hospitals from all over Australia were reporting significant increases in the number of cases. "In Sydney at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children the number of bacteriollogically-proven cases of pertussis (whooping cough) has risen markedly," Professor Buchanan said. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 2 Jun 83 p 17]

CSO: 5400/7584

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER, MALARIA OUTBREAK--Bogota--The Indian Affairs Division of the Government Ministry confirmed today that there is an outbreak [of] yellow fever and malaria in the country western region. An official indicated that the health departments of Choco and Antioquia Departments have determined that a high percentage of the population of Indian and peasant communities near the San Juan and Atrato Rivers in Choco and the Murri River in Antioquia have been affected. Measures are being taken to combat these diseases. [Summary] [PA211624 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jun 83]

CSO: 5400/2096

STUDY ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN COUNTRY REPORTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 30 May 83 p 3

[Article by Jose A. de la Osa]

> [Text] Progress made in the public health sector and manifest improvement in the people's standard of living have made it possible for infectious and parasitic diseases to drop from the high level being experienced at the time of the triumph of the revolution.

Doctor of Science candidate Gustavo Kouri Flores, director of the Pedro Kouri Institute of Tropical Medicine (IPK), will be responsible for the presentation of a paper on our people's infectious and parasitic diseases at the International Health Conference for All: 25 years of Cuban experience, to be held from 3 to 9 July in Havana.

In giving us an overall picture of the subject in question, Professor Kouri said that the health picture being experienced by our people in 1959 was no different from that of other developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean where infectious and parasitic diseases showed a high incidence and prevalence, "playing a principal role in the high morbidity rate (frequency of a disease) and mortality rate which generally characterize most of the area's countries."

Malaria, tuberculosis, respiratory and acute diarrheic diseases, having as a common denominator a high degree of intestinal parasitism, were the specific diseases which decimated the Cuban people, taking a high toll in human lives.

We may remember that, in his historic speech at the Moncada trial in 1953, Fidel said: "90 percent of the children in rural areas are devoured by parasites which get into their bodies through the toenails of their bare feet..."

Unconfirmed figures indicated that, in our area, infectious diseases represented 16 percent of all deaths before the triumph of the revolution. Tuberculosis ranked seventh among the first 10 causes of death, and acute

diarrheic infections were the primary cause of death in infants less than 1 year old and the third-ranking cause of death in children of all ages. Our children were decimated by malaria, poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus.

"As is known," Professor Kouri said, "beginning in 1959 and based on the priority given by the Revolutionary Government to the development of the national health system, we began to step up the health services at all levels of the people and, at the same time, we concentrated on the prevention and control of infectious and parasitic diseases.

"The development of the National Immunization Program, the National Network of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology during these 24 years and recent efforts to strengthen them, together with progress in medical care and manifest improvement in the nutritional level and standard of living of the people, have made it possible," our interviewee pointed out, "to lower the level of infections and parasitic diseases which we were experiencing to a high degree."

The figures speak louder than words. In the last 10 years, four cases of diphtheria have been reported throughout the country; poliomyelitis has been eradicated; tuberculosis amounts to only 8.3 cases per 100,000 inhabitants; native malaria has disappeared; in 1982 a total of 21 cases of tetanus were reported; and the incidence of whooping cough is 9.0 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Professor Kouri then spoke of the organization and priority development carried out by the IPK, including among its responsibilities highly specialized medical care, the study and investigation of infectious and parasitic diseases existing in Cuba and of those which, while not being endemic in our area, represent a high incidence and prevalence in the Third World, with a view to cooperating with friendly countries in the common struggle against these diseases.

He then stated that the IPK will, in the near future, include in its organization the National Laboratories of Microbiology and Parasitology, a hospital specialized in infectious and parasitic diseases and a central department responsible for the development and control of epidemiological vigilance systems and that it will be the state organization which, acting ss the head of the National Network of Epidemiology, will carry out the necessary studies and scientific research which are the result of the analysis of the state of health of the Cuban people, specifically in the area of infectious and parasitic diseases.

"A no less important role," he concluded, "is that which the IKP is playing in the training of health personal required by Cuba or by countries of the area and, in general, by the Third World, to combat this pathology."

8568
CSO: 5400/2089

NEW MODERN HOSPITAL IN HAVANA DESCRIBED

Havana CUBA INTERNACIONAL in Spanish May 83 pp 26-30

[Text] At first glance, it appears to be an enormous, deluxe hotel, located opposite the entryway to the legendary Havana Bay. Based on its size and facilities, it could also house the largest private or public institution in any country in the world. But it is not that type of establishment at all. Rather, it is the hospital of the Central Havana municipality, Hermanos Ameijeras, a most modern construction embodying Cuba's intention of becoming a world medical power.

Actually, the Caribbean island is very close to seeing that desire fulfilled. The socioeconomic changes that have occurred in the country since the revolutionary triumph of 1959 meant that it could set up one of the most powerful health systems in the world.

Cuba now has 257 hospitals. Its infant mortality rate is 18.5, comparable to that of any developed country. Life expectancy at birth is 73 years, equivalent to that of the United States. It has 17,000 doctors, which number will grow to over 20,000 during this 5-year period, and it can guarantee the future possibility of graduating 3,000 more a year.

In 1959, the country had only 28,000 hospital beds, most of them in private facilities. It now has 46,000, available to the people at no cost whatsoever. With respect to the doctor/inhabitant ratio, it is similar to that of any industrialized Western nation (1/674 in 1978).

Construction of the Central Havana Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital -- named after three young men who died in the insurrection in the 1950's -- ratifies the public health policy followed by the Cuban Government and defined by President Fidel Castro as top priority and sacred.

The center is no longer just a great project. Rather, it is an establishment that has begun to offer services to the population.

In the early phase, it is doing so through a group of specialized clinics that gives the impression of being in itself a great luxury clinic. It can provide services to nearly 1,500 patients a day.

The hospital consists of a great architectonic complex having 75,500 square meters, including a central 24-floor building and various auxiliary facilities.

When it is in full operation, it will be able to meet the needs of nearly 300,000 persons living in the oldest zone of the city.

The hospital is also designed to provide care for the other provinces of the island, thereby meeting a national need.

In order to give an idea of the size of the institution, one would have to say that 75,000 square meters of cement were used in its construction, enough to build a road 1 meter wide and 75 meters long. Some 4 million tiles were used, enough to make a straight line 220 kilometers long.

The hospital has electric power of 6,000 kilowatts and air-conditioning equipment with a capacity of 2,600 tons.

The general cost, including construction and equipment, is approximately 60 million pesos, about $73 million.

The first five floors of the main building hold the service and support areas of the institution, including the various clinics, the guard staff, laboratories, emergency operating rooms and intensive therapy facilities, along with other equally important areas, such as the central kitchen and dining room. From the sixth to the top floor, all areas are for hospital rooms.

As a project going up in the midst of an urbanized zone, it was necessary, as the final stages approached, to expand the surrounding areas and perform some remodeling of access ways, for which purpose some buildings in the area were demolished. Among these were parts of a construction belonging to the Sisters of Charity. This congregation turned over a sizable amount of land for the expansion at no cost. The demolished sections were rebuilt by the Cuban Government and incorporated into the original buildings of the Sisters.

Due to the fact that the hospital is in the very center of a densely populated area, hygiene and prevention of contamination received great attention, in addition to what was demanded by its size and internal flow. Some 17,000 square meters of marble and 44.000 square meters of tile make it possible for nearly the entire area to be washed.

These elements are accompanied by total air-conditioning of the center, provided by modern equipment whose operation renews the air, through filters, 18 times an hour, for the purpose of keeping it 100-percent pure.

Visitors from other countries, many of them Latin American, understand that this is an institution going beyond the framework of what they consider to be a traditional hospital.

Unexpected Impression

One reaches the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital by means of a viaduct or overpass in the form of an ellipse. Once through the door, the visitor has an unexpected impression of suddenly becoming very small.

One of the things causing this reaction is the central lobby, in which the best designers and plastic artists in the country have displayed their talents, entrusted with the task of the general decoration of the building. The atmosphere is warm: Sofas done in coordinated colors are distributed throughout the spacious area, where properly placed speakers attenuate the noise and provide relaxing background music.

Two attractive murals done in relief, 35 meters long each, evoke "Day" and "Night," created by the Romanian artist Sandu Darie. Their composition preserves a harmonious balance with other elements such as ornamental plants, the generous use of marble and furnishings.

"Different simultaneous elements are combined to make patients feel they are being taken care of with utmost concern," says the institution's director, Dr Raul Gomez Cabrera, a 45-year-old pediatrician with 7 years of experience in hospital management.

One's first contact with the center results in a reaction of surprise over the very majesty of the facilities. Perhaps that it why the personality of the director is so contrasting, for he speaks with simplicity and modesty -- although not without pride and awareness of his responsibility -- the features of the institution.

Most cases entering the hospital are in the branches of internal medicine and surgery, meaning that these wards will be the most crowded.

Twelve elevators lead to the hospital floors. Vast corridors with marble walls in different colors: pink, grey, green, yellow or beige, are complemented with granite floors providing an overall image of space and beauty.

A typical floor such as that of internal medicine has wards with 56 beds, divided into two wings separated by a central hall and integrated on each side by seven rooms, each with 4 beds, although there are also individual rooms for 2 or 3 persons.

On the 23d floor, where one finds the burn ward and its corresponding area of intensive therapy, the rooms are mostly for one person, which responds to the need for isolation and intensive care which these cases require.

The 300 hospital rooms have beds on which patients can be transferred to other areas. There are very functional bedside tables, comfortable chairs for each patient and all rooms have their individual bathrooms. In addition, 50 percent of the rooms will have phones.

It was perhaps because of all these things that Fidel himself, speaking at the official opening, noted with visible joy and satisfaction: "I do not remember having seen any hotel better than this hospital, in every sense: beauty, final details, how everything is finished. The view is impressive, especially looking toward the sea wall and the ocean."

On the wards, we found dining rooms with a very warm atmosphere, designed to be used as sitting rooms during leisure time. Tables are to be shared by four.

On another floor, the green tile walls indicate that we are in the surgical area. Here one finds 14 of the 25 operating rooms which the institution has. From 1,500 to 1,800 surgical cases can be handled a month.

The planners looked after every detail. Rooms for infectious diseases are isolated from the others.

In addition, there are two rooms on every floor for the chief of service and the secretary, waiting rooms and a small meeting room for doctors, in addition to a classroom.

High Scientific Level

"This clinical-surgical hospital pursues the objective of providing highly specialized care," its director points out. "The potential for care is backed by a staff of between 2,500 and 3,000 persons." Of this number, over 300 are doctors, almost as many as more than one small underdeveloped country would have, and over 70 professionals, including engineers, physicists, biochemists, biologists, specialists in cybernetics and licensed nurses.

A distinctive trait of the doctors working at the hospital is their high scientific level. Among them are doctors of medical sciences and candidates for the specialization, with an average age of 50 years. Because of their professional prestige and knowledge, they were chosen as chiefs of services of the hospital. All staff doctors are professors at the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences of Cuba.

In order to be on the staff of the institution, the doctors must compete based on a curriculum previously established. The selection is very rigorous, with emphasis on professional background.

There has been an attempt to attract young, talented doctors -- average age of those competing is 35 -- in order to guarantee subsequent development of the institution, comments the director, who also states that the hospital will provide teaching facilities for postgraduate study and will promote research.

"The medical equipment available and the fact that it is located in a single building means that every specialist feels he has great support in his work," says Dr Bartolome Arce, head of endocrinology.

Among the equipment purchased for the center is a very complicated apparatus, computerized axial tomography, known as Somaton 2, which provides more possibilities of diagnosis than conventional X-ray and better visualization of structures in question.

Few countries in the world have such modern equipment, for the invention has been used for only some 5 years and the price is over $1 million.

There is also equipment for other advanced techniques, such as the exploration and observation of the internal system of the human organism by means of ultrasound and television.

The technique of echographic or ultrasound diagnosis offers, among its many advantages, that of rapid diagnosis, without causing the patient any discomfort or pain.

The X-ray equipment hooked up to television makes it possible to see those part of the organism that are affected, which saves the specialist valuable time since he does not have to resort to the traditional techniques of developing. In addition, the risk of radiation is reduced for both the technician and patient.

With respect to ophthamology, the technical equipment includes laser beams, the most recent contribution of modern physics to surgery of the retina.

This specialization also has various units of the so-called combined table, an electronics complex that facilitates operations of examining and measuring vision without moving the patient from his seat.

The most modern equipment is also available for cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, two services to which Cuban health officials are devoting enormous resources, and for diagnostic nuclear medicine.

The different laboratories: bacteriology, allergies, blood chemistry and pathological anatomy, have modern equipment for research in microbiology and clinical lab work, including electronic microscopes.

At this hospital, one no longer sees the huge areas once devoted to hospital laboratories. The high level of automation allows complex research to be done in small cubicles.

One piece of equipment called Autolab can do 16 or more types of analysis of blood chemistry at a rate of 4 determinations a minute for every sample and working at an average of 240 samples an hour.

All movement in the hospital will be controlled by computers, as will information to patients and visitors, through electronic screens. This method will be used to record donations of blood, emergency examinations, clinical history, scientific-technical information and diet, since the patient will select his menu ahead of time!

With these features and despite the blockade by the United States and the rigid limitations imposed by the international economic recession, the director of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital in Central Havana, Dr Gomez Cabrera, believes that the organization can become an institution with world prestige, one to which no one would deny the label of hospital of the future.

Despite the Blockade

Public health services in Cuba, like the major sectors of its economy, have been affected by the blockade imposed by the United States in 1960.

Washington notified the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that that international organization could not purchase equipment and materials for the development of health programs in Cuba from the United States. Dr Alina Llop, a microbiologist who has been in charge of some organizational aspects of the hospital, notes that up until that time, PAHO had cooperated in an extraordinary fashion with Cuba in proceedings aimed at promoting the purchase of equipment and helping to step up cooperation programs.

Washington applied the embargo on purchases of computers, calculators, books, teaching equipment and printing presses, all materials commonly used in education that had been reaching Cuba for years through cooperation programs, Dr Llop adds.

The administration of Ronald Reagan based the measure on the argument that it was a question of domestic equipment.

Director Gomez Cabrera notes: "There can be no doubt that the blockade of the United States has conspired against the hospital, forcing the country to acquire the equipment on the most diverse markets, with the resulting higher cost.

"American authorities have used their influence," he says, "to hinder our access to scientific and technical information, and has ordered some of its transnational companies not to seel their products to this hospital."

11,464
CSO: 5400/2087

TUBERCULOSIS FEARED SPREADING IN COPENHAGEN AREA

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 15 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] At Svaneparken Hospital 75 adults were X-rayed and a ward was closed temporarily and disinfected after a 3 year old boy was infected with tuberculosis by a patient at Svaneparken.

On 1 June the chief medical officer of Frederikborg County received a report that a 3 year old boy was believed to have contracted tuberculosis. He was admitted to the childrens' ward and on 3 June the diagnosis was so certain that treatment began.

Efforts to determine the source of contagion revealed that he attended kindergarten in Allerod, but no one there was ill. Then it was found that his brother was an employee at Svaneparken. Here a middle-aged patient was found who had tuberculosis. Then 75 people with whom he had been in contact were examined, both patients and employees, and the ward was closed temporarily.

The man with tuberculosis is being treated at the hospital and the boy has been released. He had been at home with the measles and the doctors believe he was not in kindergarten while his tuberculosis was contagious.

Doctors believe that the adult had had a latent case of tuberculosis for many years, which suddenly broke out. They see the case as isolated, although for several more days it will be impossible to say with certainty whether or not anyone else has been infected.

In connection with the cases of tuberculosis in Sollerod, where it was found recently that nine children had been infected, two new cases have been discovered at a day nursery on Overodvej, so that a total of 11 children and one adult have contracted the disease. Most of the children soon will be released and all of them are doing well.

9336
CSO: 5400/2651

MASS TREATMENT, NEW MEDICATION FOR SCHISTOSOMIASIS REPORTED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 29 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS--Mass treatment of persons suffering from Schistosomiasis must be accompanied by an improvement in their surroundings. This was stated by Dr M. Adhyatma, the director general of P3M activity (prevention and eradication of contagious diseases) in the Ministry of Health, in a conversation with a KOMPAS representative yesterday [28 April] on his return from a visit to the Lembah Napu area, 100 kilometers southeast of Palu in Central Sulawesi.

In addition to Lembah Napu, other areas in Central Sulawesi where Schistosomiasis is endemic are Lake Lindu and Besoa. The total number of people suffering from or threatened by Schistosoma Japonicum [liver fluke] in the three areas mentioned above is believed to be more than 10,000. The parasite, which is spread by the Oncomelania Linduensis snail, is difficult to eradicate because the situation in the three areas makes it possible for the snails to flourish.

According to Doctor Adhyatma, the circumstances in which the snail lives must be changed. This can be done, for example, by drying out and filling in swamps, improving irrigation canals so that the water in them flows freely, and cementing the banks of canals. It can also be done by planting trees which store water, like pines. He continued: "Another way is to change the agricultural system, from raising wetland crops like rice to dryland crops like coffee."

He also said that in the Lembah Napu area, which is a particularly fertile area of flooded fields, the farmers should be encouraged to wear rubber boots when working in the flooded area. He said: "It is difficult for them to understand the mechanism and cycle by which the disease spreads. We can only urge them to use clean water for their daily needs and deposit their waste material in certain places."

In addition to human beings, the Schistosomiasis parasite also attacks mice, pigs, deer, cattle, water buffalo, horses, cats, and other animals, which increases the difficulty of eradicating the disease, because the animals also become sources of infections. In human beings the liver flukes and their larvae circulate widely, establishing centers of the infection in the

circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and muscular systems, as well as in the skin. If the heart is affected, it becomes enlarged.

New Medicine

Praziquantel, a new medicine which is now being used on a massive scale in Central Sulawesi, has turned out to be quite effective and is more practical than Stibofen, a medicine which has been used up to now. This medicine made by Bayer only began to be used at the end of last year. The treatment must be repeated every 6 months. According to Doctor Adhyatma, field research has shown that the level of infection, which stood at 65 percent, has been successfully reduced to 8 percent. Furthermore, complaints about the disease have lessened.

A further advantage of Praziquantal over Stibofen is that it is not toxic. It is easy to use because it is drunk in the usual way, and a single dose of the medicine is enough. On the other hand Stibofen must be injected several times and must be used very selectively, because if it is injected into a person who is seriously ill, it will cause death.

On the trip to Central Sulawesi Doctor Adhyatma accompanied Dr El Zawahry, chief of the WHO office in Indonesia, who comes from Egypt. That country also is affected by Schistosomiasis in the Aswan Dam area. However, the type of this disease is different from the variety found in Central Sulawesi and the Far East.

5170
CSO: 4213/65

GOITERS AFFLICT 70 PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN GOLAN

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 May 83 p 14

/Article by Yeshayahu Avi'am: "Goiter Disease Has Been Uncovered in Settlements on the Golan"/

/Text/ Goiter disease afflicts 1096 children out of 1558, which is 70.3 percent of all the children of the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Northern Golan Heights. This has been revealed by a thyroid gland examination of all the village children.

Goiters are manifested by an unacceptable level of swelling of the thyroid gland, which is located in the front of the throat, and are common primarily among the inhabitants of the Himalayas, Andes and Alps mountains. The cause of the goiter disease is due mainly to a lack of iodine in drinking water and results in reduced activity and weight gain.

In research published recently in the journal, "Medicine," Y. Garziel, D. Bar On and T. Horn from the Majdal Shams Clinic and Department of Biophysical and Nuclear Medicine of the "Hadassah" University Medical Center in Jerusalem present findings about the lack of iodine in the drinking water of not only the Golan Heights but also in various settlements in Upper Galilee.

It is a well-known phenomenon in mountainous settlements, where the inhabitants drink water from thawed snow, poor in iodine, which is manifested in the swelling of the thyroid gland and its hypo-activity. And indeed, the Israeli researchers noticed this phenomenon also in the high settlement points on the Goland Heights, whose inhabitants drink water from the thawed snow of Mount Hermon.

In the past they have already conducted various studies on the phenomenon of lack of iodine in the drinking water in Western Galilee and they came up with various results. Studies by N. Brand and Y. Gedaliah published in 1961 pointed out the very small concentrations of iodine in the water of Upper Galilee, a concentration which reached 0.5 micograms to the liter. This concentration is much lower than other regions of the world with endemic goiters, as for example, in Holland. It is lower, of course, in comparison to other mountainous regions in the country, such as Jerusalem, where the concentration of iodine in the water is 58 micograms to the liter. In another survey by

E. Freundlich in 1980, it was found that the percentage of hypo-thyroid without goiters is higher in the Arab population compared to the Jewish population. On the other hand, the percentage is higher in the mountain inhabitants compared to the plains. Freundlich's group also expressed the assumption that the geographic factor is of primary importance.

Among the other reasons for goiters among those examined in Majdal Shams, one can include heredity and diet, which includes low amounts of iodine. On the other hand, the diet of the village inhabitants is rich in calcium and other minerals, which could directly or indirectly affect the deficiency of iodine in the body.

The Israeli researchers have concluded from the studies that in the country's northern mountainous regions, and in this case in the Golan Heights, the disease exists and one should determine the cause of this situation.

9944
CSO: 5400/4520

NEW VIRUS FOUND IN COAST AREA

Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 16 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] MEDICAL researchers in Kenya have for the first time discovered an outbreak of a new disease — dengue virus fever — along the Kenya Coast.

Disclosing this yesterday, the Minister for Regional Development, Science and Technology, Mr. Nicholas Biwott, said: "This is the first time the dengue virus has been discovered anywhere in Kenya and, indeed, anywhere in East Africa."

He said the discovery was a result of recent surveys mounted by the Virus Research Centre.

The Minister also said the recent research had established that, contrary to fears "there is no chloroquine resistant malaria in Kenya and that chloroquine remains the drug of choice for the control of this widespread disease."

Mr. Biwott was speaking during a foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Kenya Medical Research Institute Headquarters and Central Laboratories complex in Nairobi, which will be built under a Japanese grant.

The institute will comprise seven medical research bodies which are currently spread all over the country.

Mr. Biwott said the first ever national tuberculosis survey undertaken in the country had shown that a significant number of Kenyans suffered from the disease, but modern drug development had reduced the TB treatment period from 24 months to 6 months.

The shortening in time saved money and enabled extension of medical care to more people, he said.

The Minister emphasised that such medical breakthroughs were only useful if they were taken to the patients.

The Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Teruo Kosugi, said the Shs. 150 million grant to be used for the institute was a concrete testimony to the friendly relations existing between Kenya and Japan. He said KENRI was just one of a long line of medical co-operation projects which went back to 1969.

CSO: 5400/293

BRIEFS

NUMBER OF HERPES CASES--An official source at the Public Health Ministry has noted that the number of herpes cases discovered so far do not exceed 12. [Summary] [GF211402 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Jun 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/399

AFRICAN LUNG FLUKE DISEASE FOUND IN COUNTRY

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English No 1166, 17 May 83 p 2

[Text]

A disease has been found here in Liberia which was not previously thought to exist here. It is called African lung fluke disease or paragonimiasis. The first case was a 16-year-old girl in Zorzor, Lofa County at the Curran Lutheran Hospital diagnosed and treated by Dr. Alexander and the lab technician, Miss J. G. Buck.

Since that original case in February, 1980, there have been 15 other cases found in various parts of Liberia. Dr. Sachs of the Liberian Research Unit of the Tropical Institute Hamburg at Bong has found three areas where the disease is present. One area with 3 patients is the Popalahun-Lehoma focus in Upper Lofa. Another 4 patients came from the Zorzor-Salayea focus; and 2 patients adequately cooked or roasted fresh water crabs. While most people cook the crabs well before eating, they can be seen preparing, cleaning, and cooking crabs with the juices of the crab running down their fingers. Sometimes these fingers touch the mouth or touch something else that gets to the mouth.

After eating the infected very small forms of the Paragonimiasis parasite, the parasite goes through the wall of the stomach or intestines and migrates to the lungs. Here it forms a cyst within lung tissue. When the cyst breaks many eggs are coughed up with sputum and are sometimes accompanied by blood. See the diagram of the life cycle of the lung fluke.

Most patients with

been 15 other cases found in various parts of Liberia. Dr. Sachs of the Liberian Research Unit of the Tropical Institute Hamburg at Bong has found three areas where the disease is present. One area with 3 patients is the Popalahun-Lehoma focus in Upper Lofa. Another 4 patients came from the Zorzor-Salayea focus; and 2 patients have been found in the Mawua-Haini focus of Bong County.

Besides Liberia, Paragonimiasis has been reported from West Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Eastern Nigeria, Guinea and Gabon.

The lung fluke disease is caused by a parasite called a fluke. It resembles a snail without a shell. It lives in the lungs of infected persons and causes the person to cough up blood.

How do you get this disease? The parasite lives in crabs and humans become infected by eating raw or in-

Paragonimiasis parasite, the parasite goes through the wall of the stomach or intestines and migrates to the lungs. Here it forms a cyst within lung tissue. When the cyst breaks many eggs are coughed up with sputum and are sometimes accompanied by blood. See the diagram of the life cycle of the lung fluke.

Most patients with paragonimiasis are not sickly. They only cough up blood. They do not have fever, weight loss, night sweats, and loss of appetite as is common in tuberculosis. Dr. Mark Monson of Curran Hospital states that a basically well person who coughs up blood in Liberia "probably" has Paragonimiasis.

At first thought one might think having a new disease discovered is bad. Actually this merely reflects progress in our ability to recognize problems. The disease has probably been here a long time before we were smart enough to diagnose it.

Fortunately, African lung fluke disease is curable. The drug of choice is Praziquantel, the same drug as used to treat Schistosomiasis. In Liberia this drug has proven to be very effective with minimal side effects. The drug is expensive ($2-tablet) but the total number of tablets needed to treat an adult is only 12 tablets (taken over a 2-day period).

CSO: 5400/1533

CHOLERA SITUATION IMPROVING IN KELANTAN STATE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 May 83 p 10

[Text]

KOTA BAHARU, Wed. — The cholera situation in Kelantan is "bad but improving", Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Ministry Datuk Lee Boon Peng said today.

Datuk Lee is here on a 24-hour visit to study the situation.

He said that to counter the cholera problem, the cooperation of the PWD, Waterworks, local authorities and the district offices was needed.

Datuk Lee visited the proposed Tumpat hospital which will be use by the end of the year.

Main worry

There have been 263 confirmed cases of cholera this year, while there were 264 carriers and 312 suspects.

However, Datuk Lee said there were only eight patients at the cholera ward here and one in Kuala Kerai. Most of the cases are from Kota Baharu, Tumpat, Kuala Kerai and Pasir Mas.

Datuk Lee said the main health worry was clean water but he was hopeful that with the completion of long-term water projects in the State, by 1985 or 1986 the problem would be overcome.

Health authorities have meanwhile requested the Waterworks in the State to increase the level of chlorine in tap water in the current epidemic.

The department has so far chlorinated 10,635 wells throughout the State.

CSO: 5400/8429

HIGH INCIDENCE OF CASES IN MALARIAL POCKETS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 May 83 p 1

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaria is on the resurgence in many parts of the world and the worrisome part is that the Anopheles mosquito could develop a resistance to existing chemicals used to check its breeding if used over long periods.

The director of the vector control programme, Dr Mehar Singh Gill, says fortunately the vector in Malaysia was not yet immune to D.D.T.

Dr Mehar Singh feels that while a continuous and serious war is being waged to interrupt transmission of the disease by eliminating vector breeding grounds, it is not possible to annihilate the Anopheles mosquito.

To eliminate the malarial parasite, the vector control programme has adopted a motto which says *Every Case of Fever is Malaria until Proven Otherwise.*

Dr Mehar Singh says the ultimate elimination of malaria depends on strict adherence to the motto. All Government hospitals and clinics have been directed to adhere to the motto.

Several private clinics in Kelantan and Pahang were taking blood samples of fever cases. However, not many were doing it as it took time, he added.

Samples

Dr Mehar Singh says even malaria-free areas were at risk of being exposed to imported cases of malaria.

Last year there were 21 "imported" cases from India, 115 from Indonesia, 176 from Thailand and 17 from Burma.

In Peninsular Malaysia, malarial pockets are found in the Hulu Kelantan and Tanah Merah districts, and Kuala Berang and Dong areas in the Besut district in Hulu Terengganu.

Malarial pockets are also found in Grik and Kroh in Hulu Perak and in the Baling and Sik areas in Kedah.

Last year, 12,411 cases were found in these areas. In addition, 24 were fatal cases. — Bernama.

CSO: 5400/8429

BRIEFS

JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC REPORTED--RAMECHAP, June 15--Hundice is reported to have appeared in epidemic from at Besi village in Ramechhap district. One hundred and seven jaundice patients have already reported to local health post for medical treatment, but there is no medicine for jaundice at the health post, it is learnt. As a result, some patients have gone elsewhere for treatment while others have become helpless for want of treatment. Meanwhile, Pradhan Panchas of fifty-five village panchayats in the district have demanded that necessary medicines and physicians be sent to their respective villages to contain growing possibility of jaundice epidemic. [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 16 Jun 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/4731

INVESTIGATION OF EFFECT OF CYANIDE ON HUMAN METABOLISM

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE] in Chinese No 1, 1983 pp 35-37

[Article by Zhang Zhennong [1728 2182 6593], et al: "Investigation of Air Pollution Caused by Cyanide-borne Waste Water and Its Effect on Human Body"]

[Summary] This article deals with the air pollution caused by cyanide-borne waste water in a factory. When passing through the open upper part of a cooling tank, the waste water released cyanide into the atmosphere at a rate of 5.6-33.9 kg/h. Under nearly neutral meteorological conditions, cyanide concentrations in the air exceeded 0.3 mg/m^3 in a 150 m-long and 50 m-wide leeward tongue-shaped area and 0.01 mg/m^3 in a 700 m-long and 250 m-wide leeward tongue-shaped area.

Investigations were made of the effect of cyanide on the metabolism in the human body. It was found that when the average cyanide concentration of the air reached 0.15 mg/m^3, the level of thiocyanate in the urine of the people exposed was significantly higher than that of the control group, and that the former was still somewhat higher than the latter when the cyanide concentration reached 0.016 mg/m^3, or 0.004 mg/m^3, but not statistically significant. The results of this study may be used as a reference in formulating health standards.

9717
CSO: 5400/4141

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE OUTBREAKS REPORTED

Food Poisoning

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE] in Chinese No 1, 1983 pp 4-7

[Article by Wu Guangxian [0702 0342 0341] of Nanjing Anti-epidemic Station: "Investigations on an Outbreak of Clostridium Perfringens Food Poisoning"]

[Summary] An outbreak of Clostridium perfringens food poisoning which affected 176 persons who had eaten cooked duck meat dishes is described. The causative agent was proved to be a heat-sensitive strain of Cl. perfringens type A. This is the first time that the association of this strain with food poisoning has been reported in China.

The appearence of large numbers of Cl. perfringens organisms in the patients' vomit and of specific antibodies in the patients' serum supported the diagnosis of Cl. perfringens poisoning based on clinical and epidemiological evidence. Further support was provided by the evidence that the same serotype and biotype of organisms were recovered from the vomit and stool of different patients.

Hemorrhagic Fever

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE] in Chinese No 1, 1983 pp 11-13

[Article by Yin Wenming [1438 2429 2494], et al: "A Report of Infectious Focus of Hemorrhagic Fever With Renal Syndrome in Tangshan Area"]

[Summary] No cases of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) were reported in Hebei Province before 1980.

From November 1980 to January 1981, two cases with typical clinical symptoms occurred in a village of Fengnan County in the Tangshan area, Hebei Province. Neither victim had left his hometown before he was taken ill. Convalescent sera collected from these two patients all gave positive immunofluorescence antibody reaction (titer $>$ 1:1000) against Korean hemorrhagic fever antigen with the indirect immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT) being used.

HFRS antigen has been detected in Apodemus agrarius and Rattus norvegicus captured from the village, with the rates of HFRS antigen being 3.7 percent (10/268) and 18.5 percent (5/27) respectively. Of 50 samples of Crecetulus triton, Crecetulus barabensis and Mus musculus captured from the same village, all were negative when the same methods were used at the same time. Further study showed that the antigen isolated from R. norvegicus and A. agrarius was HFRS antigen, thus an infectious focus of HFRS was demonstrated for the first time in Hebei Province.

9717
CSO: 5400/4141

BRIEFS

NEW GASTROENTERITIS VIRUS--Since last November, there have been sudden occurrences of a kind of nonbacterial acute diarrhea mainly in the young and middle-aged in Lanzhou in the Northwest and in the Fuxin and Jixi mining areas in the Northeast. It is highly contagious; the main symptoms are diarrhea, borborygmus and abdominal pains; patients' temperatures are normal or low in most cases. The number of people who have been infected are in the tens of thousands. The miners' health is seriously imperiled and is causing great losses to coal production. We conducted an etiological research on this disease in the course of its treatment, prevention and epidemiological survey. Stool specimens, 42 from patients and nine from uninfected persons were observed in routine and electromicroscopic immunity examinations, a small round viral particle about 52nm in size has been found in 80 percent of the patients' specimens. This viral particle has a specific form and structure and can be classified into two categories: fully-occupied and hollow. Within its hexagonal core shell, there is a core-like area whose boundaries are indistinct; when the viral particle bursts, leaking of the core-like area of the virus can be seen. In view of the fact that the form and size of this virus differ from that of the spherical virus (70-75nm) and that of small viruses such as the Norwalk and so forth (27-32nm), and also because during electro-microscopic immunity examination it is coagulated by the serum of recovering patients but not by that of patients under acute treatment and uninfected persons, this virus may be the major cause of the adult diarrhea epidemic of tens of thousands of people this past winter. In order to describe it conveniently and because the disease occurred mainly in mining areas, it is called, for the time being, the "miner's diarrhea virus." In addition, a strange coronary viral particle has been found in 14.2 percent of specimens of the patients' stool, there is great disparity in size (110-550nm) and form; in electro-microscopic immunity experiments, it is not coagulated by the recovering patients' serum but can self-coagulate. Spherical viruses are also found in specimens of some adult patients' stool. Further study is pending on what role these viruses play in this sudden occurrence of acute gastroenteritis. [Text] [Beijing ZHONGGUO YIXUE KEXUEYUAN XUEBAO [ACTA ACADEMIAE SINICAE] in Chinese No 2, April 1983 p 130] 12272

BRIEFS

MALARIA OUTBREAK--An outbreak of malaria has been reported in Piura due to the floods. So far more than 100 cases have been reported. [Summary] [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 21 Jun 83 p 9 PY]

CSO: 5400/2097

HEALTH MINISTRY TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST SPREAD OF MALARIA

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jun 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Health is soon to launch a nation-wide campaign against the spread of malaria in the country.

The Director for Preventive Services in the Ministry, Dr. A. Mgeni, said yesterday that the disease was on the increase in many parts of the country, adding that his Ministry was looking for permanent preventive measures to check the spread.

He said his Ministry had assigned the National Institute for Medical Research to review previous malaria control programmes which were a success. He indicated that these would be incorporation in the current programme.

Dr. Mgeni pointed out that reference would be made to the workshop on malaria held in Dar es Salaam last month.

He said the Ministry was also carrying out intensive investigations and studies into the now common belief that there were some malaria parasites which had developed resistance to chloroquine, he added.

He said experts were working towards establishment of a proof of chloroquine's impotence against malaria as well as the correct dosage to be administered to patients infected by the so-called chloroquine-resistant malaria parasites.

Five years ago, a US-based Atlanta Centre for Disease Control had discovered a species of malaria-transmitting mosquito —*plasmodium falciparum* — which was believed to be resistant to chloroquine.

Later experiments and researches by various medical professionals had not yet rendered it conclusive evidence.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mgeni has called for community participation in the anti-malaria campaign. He said it was a wholesale programme which entailed mass re-education and mobilisation, noting that a significant percentage of the public was often not conscious of the surroundings which were likely to accommodate mosquito larvae or breeding ponds.

He called for the destruction of such ponds and general cleanliness of surroundings.

On anti-malaria drugs, the Director said there was acute shortage of mosquito and mosquito larvae sprays in the country. He explained that these required foreign currency. However, Dr. Mgeni affirmed that there were enough drugs for the disease.

On mosquito-nets, he said they were in short supply and said his ministry was liaising with other ministries concerned on the availability of the nets.

CSO: 5400/294

BRIEFS

TANGA MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--TANGA--Children in seven villages in Kwekivu Division, Handeni District, in Tanga region are being vaccinated against measles in a campaign against the disease launched by the District Health Department Shihata reported. The Acting Tanga Medical Officer, Ndugu Allan Kiango, said that the campaign started at the end of last month to fight frequent breakdowns of measles in the district. According to Doctor Kiango, a survey conducted by the Health Department indicates that between January and May, this year, 1974 children in Tunguli Village caught measles and 18 of them died from the disease. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 7 Jun 83 p 3]

DYSENTERY DEATHS--NINENTEEN people have died of dysentery in Mwanza since the disease broke out in the region last month, the Regional Health Officer, Ndugu E. Mapunda has said. Last month 15 people out of 244 victims of the disease died. Several villages in the region have been placed under quarantine. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 14 Jun 83 p 2]

ANTIMALARIA CAMPAIGN--Tanzania is to launch a campaign against the spread of malaria in the country. The director of Tanzania's preventive medical services, Dr (Mugeni), said that the government's Health Ministry was looking for a permanent way to stop malaria from spreading. Dr (Mugeni) said that the ministry was also studying a report that some strains of malaria are resistant to chloroquine, the traditional prevention and malaria cure. Malaria, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes, kills about 1 million people in developing countries every year. [Text] [Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jun 83 EA]

CSO: 5400/289

GOVERNMENT REPORTS INCREASE IN CASES OF LEPTOSPIROSIS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jun 83 p 6

[Text]

LEPTOSPIROSIS or rat bite fever is on the increase in Trinidad and Tobago.

This was learnt at the rodent biology and control training course sponsored by the Ministries of Health and Environment, Community Development and Local Government and Agriculture, Lands and Food Production and the Pan American Health Organisation-/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) which is currently being held at the City Hall in Port of Spain.

According to figures released by Dr. Chad Helmick of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) during a lecture to the course participants form throughout the Caribbean, the percentage of leptospirosis has been rising in the country over the past three years.

Quoting from a CAREC review of communicable diseases in the Caribbean, 1982, Dr. Helmick reported that the 11 cases reported for 1980, it had risen to 31 by 1982. The figure recorded for 1981 was 21.

This brought the total number of recorded cases for the three years to 63. The highest incidence of rat bite fever whose symptoms are fever, headache and chills was recorded in Cuba — a figure of 961 for the past three years under review.

The review showed that 308 cases recorded in 1980, 244 in 1981 and 409 last year.

The second highest was in Jamaica where cases reported were 679 for the review period with the breakdown being 116 in 1980, 277 in 1981 and 286 in 1982.

Barbados had the third highest record with a total of 173 cases from 52, 66 and 55 cases recorded for the three years respectively.

Lowest incidences of the bacterial disease were recorded in the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. In the case of the Bahamas there was one case in 1982 and in Puerto Rico, one in 1981.

A total figure recorded for the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, the Lesser Antilles and South America was 2,045 showing an increase from 521 for 1980, 692 for 1981 and 832 last year.

CSO: 5400/7586

TOBAGO WAR ON MOSQUITOS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 May 83 p 6

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

"WE HAVE completely eradicated the Aedes aegypti mosquito in Tobago. "This means there is no chance of an outbreak of yellow fever in the island."

This assurance was given by acting public health inspector, Mr. Ashton Phillips, as he spoke to the "Guardian" about insect vector control in the island.

"We are striving to maintain this standard", Mr. Phillips added. He said that his division had embarked on an intensified programme of residual spraying of the walls of houses with insecticide.

In this, he said, he had been receiving 100 per cent co-operation from the public.

Workers have also been visiting houses, checking water barrels, vases, and other containers for the possible presence of mosquito larvae, and spraying these receptacles.

Mr. Phillips said there was also a seasonal problem with houseflies around the Shirvan Park area. The fly nuisance, he explained, cropped up whenever there was a horse race meeting. "But our sprayers assist in reducing the flies", he added.

BREEDING GROUND

The health officer stressed that the public could assist in the health drive by covering all barrels, tanks, or any receptacle that would hold water and by keeping their surroundings free from bottles, tins, and tyres, which could be breeding grounds for insects.

Mr. Phillips said to ensure that the mosquito did not sneak back into Tobago, constant checks were made on all local and foreign aircraft.

These are checked every morning

CSO: 5400/7583

BRIEFS

ANTI-DENGUE EFFORTS--THE Insect Vector Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Environment is placing special emphasis on areas where a few cases of dengue fever were recently confirmed. The emphasis is part of the ministry's effort to eradicate the aedes aegypt mosquito, a Ministry of Information release said. According to the release, the division is setting up an education programme in schools involving all health workers. The mosquito is a carrier of yellow fever, dengue fever and haemorrhagi dengue fever. Dengue fever is normally an acute non-fatal disease and a victim will experience a sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, backbone and pains in the joints which generally last for about a week. There is no vaccine against dengue fever which is transmitted from one person to another by the bite of an infected aedes aegypti mosquito. The mosquito breeds in clean, still water and the eggs can hatch within a few hours after several months without water. The release said that water treated by persons from the insect vector control division during its house-to-house visits is completley safe for drinking purposes after treatment. As part of its education programme, the film unit of the Information Ministry has produced a film on the mosquito called "The Silent Intruder" which is now ready for distribution. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jun 83 p 6]

DENGUE FEVER CASES--Following the confirmation of a few cases of dengue fever in the country, the Insect Vector Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Environment has stepped up the campaign against the aedes aegypti mosquito. In a release yesterday, the Ministry of Information did not specify the areas where the dengue fever has broken out, but unconfirmed reports indicate that the cases have occurred in St. George County. The aedes aegypti mosquito is a carrier of yellow fever, dengue fever and haemorrhagic dengue fever. Dengue fever is normally an acute but non-fatal disease and a person with the fever will have a sudden onset of high fever, severe headache, backache and pains in the joints which generally last for about one week. There is no vaccine against dengue fever, and it is transmitted from one person to another by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito, breeds in clean, still water, and the Ministry has warned against keeping unwanted containers and discard cans and bottles where the mosquito could breed. Where water has to be stored, containers should be covered. A film on the eradication of the mosquito will be completed this week for public viewing. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 29 May 83 p 3]

MENINGITIS DEATH--One child has died and persons hospitalised, but later sent home, as a result of suspected viral meningitis which struck Pablito Trace, Rousillac in the past week. Dead is eight-year-old Richard Mahadeo, a pupil of the Rousillac Hindu School. He died suddenly on May 17 after complaining of severe headaches. Dr Oswell Warner, Medical Officer, St. Patrick, said the cause of death had not been confirmed as viral meningitis. He said an investigation was being conducted and every precaution was being taken to prevent the spread of the illness. Residents of the area have expressed concern over the situation and have called on the Ministry of Health to "save our children" from the disease. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 May 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/7583

MINISTRY STARTS LUAPULA PROVINCE MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 19 Jun 83 p 7

[Text]

THE Ministry of Health has launched a vaccination campaign in Luapula Province to check the spread of measles reported to be claiming an average of three children a day.

The disease killed 41 children in Lusaka between January and April last year, two children in Ndola Rural and eight in Muyombe in Isoka district last month.

The recent outbreak of the killer disease in Luapula Province was brought to light by Samfya Member of Parliament Mr Joseph Kasongo after a tour of his constituency last April.

Mr Kasongo said the disease had broken out at Chashi island where an average of three children died each day.

Assistant director of medical services Dr Sam Nyaywa said a team from the Ministry of Health was dispatched last month to join those from provincial medical officer's office to fight the disease.

The officers had managed to vaccinate a large number of people to contain the disease and minimise deaths.

"The situation is under control and there is no epidemic in the rea. According to reports reaching us the place is quiet now as the medical team has managed to reach every one in the district," Dr Nyaywa said.

Last week a Luapula Province medical officer was reported to be in Kazembe area for an on-the-spot check on the vaccination progress.

Dr Nyaywa last September called for a campaign to combat measles especially on the Copperbelt. Poor management and lack of initiative had led to failure to reach more people, he said.

CSO: 5400/295

BRIEFS

FRESH CHOLERA OUTBREAK--District health management teams on the Copperbelt have been put on alert to fight a fresh outbreak of cholera in Luapula Province. The health group will meet today to review the situation and map out a strategy to contain the killer disease. Copperbelt Province medical officer Dr Kinayak Ganu said in Ndola yesterday the teams had been advised to be prepared. High standard of hygiene, Dr Ganu said, was the best preventive measure so far known in containing cholera. The surveillance committees in various districts had a task of teaching people the importance of maintaining high standards. Although no new cases of cholera has been reported on the Copperbelt since last known cases in December, the surveillance committees had been advised to take preventive and precautionary measures, he said. The meeting today would ensure strict line of action as drawn by the Ministry of Health in dealing with the cholera outbreak were adhered to. They appealed to the public not to relax their standard of cleanliness because this was the best method of preventing diseases such as cholera.--Zana [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 24 Jun 83 p 9]

TSETSE FLY INFESTATION--A third of Zambia's territory is tsetse fly infested and this is one of the major constraints to rural development, Agriculture and water Development Minister Unia Mwila has said in Lusaka. Speaking at a cocktail party at the end of an international seminar on trypanosomiasis in Sunningdale, Mr Mwila said Zambia spent over K1 million yearly on tsetse control. He noted that the problem was widespread in Africa.--Zana [Text] [Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES in English 26 Jun 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/296

FOOT-MOUTH RULED OUT FOR SICK PIGS; OTHER THREATS SEEN

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 31 May 83 p 10

[Article by Malcolm Brown]

[Text] The first tests of samples from two pigs found ill in the Northern Territory last week have virtually ruled out the possibility of foot and mouth disease.

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Kerin, said yesterday preliminary tests in England of the samples from the two pigs suffering snout and foot lesions did not reveal any serious viral diseases.

The Queensland Government yesterday lifted restrictions imposed last week on food imports from the Territory.

In spite of the reassuring news, Australian agricultural autho ities are not relaxing their alert fr the disease that would cost this country billions of dollars.

Two trucks which carried possibly contaminated meat from the Territory were found yesterday in Sydney and Victoria, and the meat secured in storage pending the outcome of the tests in England.

The virus, which gets into the body secretions of cloven-footed animals, could come into Australia many ways — in meat, cheese, milk, or on the soles of shoes that people have worn in farmyards.

As Mr Don Jones, an assistant director of Animal Disease Control, Division of Animal Health in the NSW Agriculture Department, explains, its reproduction would be explosive.

Animals would sicken, production would be thrown into chaos, and whole areas would have to be isolated, with mass slaughtering of stock. And the news of Australia's problems would travel quickly.

The NSW Livestock and Grain Producers' Association estimates that between $1 billion and $2 billion could be written off Australia's gross national product immediately, following the loss of US, Japanese and Korean markets and the downturn in value of our meat.

Mr Jones quotes Bureau of Agricultural Economic figures which show that the cost to Australia in one year would come to between $3 billion and $3.5 billion.

"We are not talking about a bushfire or a flood but of a disaster lasting 12 or 18 months," he said.

But there is, at least, an organisation of co-ordinated task forces ready to step into the breach should a foot and mouth outbreak be confirmed. And it would move quickly

Each State has its own task force network. In NSW, there are five regional task forces based at Gunnedah, Lismore, Wagga, Orange and Dubbo, and staffed by Department of Agriculture officers.

If a foot and mouth case was found in NSW, this would be the timetable of events:

- The property owner and veterinarian would notify the Department of Agriculture that they suspected an outbreak, and a diagnostic team would go to the property and take samples.
- Chief veterinary officers in the other States would be notified.
- Samples from the suspect animals would be sent to Pirbright.
- If initial results were positive, the chief veterinary officers would invoke a national plan. The property where the outbreak occurred would be declared infected and surrounding properties would be classified as "dangerous contact."
- All animals on the infected and dangerous contact properties would be slaughtered and their bodies buried. The owners would be compensated at market values. The farms would be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.
- Six weeks after the slaughter of the stock, fresh young adults known not to have been in contact with the disease would be put on to the property. They would remain for two weeks, then be killed and cut up to see if they have picked up the virus.

Once the property was declared clean, the owner could restock.

CSO: 5400/7584

BRIEFS

BAN ON FOOT-MOUTH LAB USE--CANBERRA--The Government will not allow the import of live foot and mouth disease virus for use in research at the new $150 million high security Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong. Caucus yesterday accepted a recommendation from the Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Jones, that the Government adopt, with minor amendments, a recommendation by the Australian Science and Technology Council against the import of the virus. The decision will be reviewed in 1987 when it is hoped that other biotechnological methods for identifying the disease have been developed. Controversy has surrounded the import of the foot and mouth virus which many cattlemen and farmers believe could escape from the laboratory and cause widespread stock losses. A spokesman for the Cattlemens' Council of Australia yesterday welcomed the Government's decision and said that it would delight all members of the livestock industry. Dr Ken Ferguson, the director of the CSIRO institute of animal and food sciences, said yesterday that the CSIRO was in favor of importing the virus but it accepted the decision. "Our program to import the virus wouldn't have taken effect until mid-1987 anyway," he said. [Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 May 83 p 7]

CSO: 5400/7584

RINDERPEST: 70,000 CATTLE DIED IN GONGOLA SINCE JANUARY

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Jun 83 p 9

[Text]

THE Governor of Gongola State, Mr. Wilberforce Juta, has confirmed that a total of 70,864 heads of cattle have died in 35 local government areas of the state since the outbreak of rinderpest was reported on January 23, this year.

A total of 1,030,243 heads of cattle have been vaccinated so far under the state-wide mass vaccination campaign against rinderpest. There are about 5.2 million heads of cattle in the state.

Speaking at the official launching of the state campaign against rinderpest in Yola last Thursday, Governor Juta announced that a total of 1,726,200 doses of vaccines were acquired for the on-going mass vaccination, especially from the Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, Plateau State.

According to the governor, a total of 92 outbreaks of the disease were reported in the state from all the 35 local government areas. He explained however, that no fresh outbreak has been reported for the past one month as against several outbreaks daily in March.

Mr. Juta said the areas worst affected by the disease were Song, Karim-Lamido, Lau and Gombi local governments, where many cattle owners had completely lost their stock.

He pointed out that the situation was brought under control because the Ministry for Animal Health and Forest Resources had 'mobilised all its human and material resources to combat the disease immediately through mass vaccination and other disease control measures, like guarantine of sick animals, restriction of cattle movements within the state and at our borders.'

The governor also said the sum of 40,000 Naira was provided to the field staff for operational purposes especially when reports revealed that there was a serious threat to cattle on the Mambilla Plateau.

CSO: 5400/292

BRIEFS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RINDERPEST--THE Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi, said yesterday that the indifference towards preventive vaccinations caused death of a large number of cattle, lost of enormous wealth and wastage of food to the nation. Governor Abba Rimi made the observation while launching the "Kaduna State campaign against rinderpest at Rigachukun yesterday. The governor said the policy of livestock improvement of the Kaduna State Government was to achieve self-sufficiency in food, meat, milk, egg for the people of the state and the nation and to raise the socio-economic conditions of the livestock owners, especially the Fulanis. It was in view of this that the state government was establishing a number of cattle breeding centres, ranches, bull holding centres, veterinary clinics, control posts and cattle dip all over the state for prompt disease control measures. Governor Abba Rimi announced that the recent wave of rinderpest had killed at least 9,605 herds of cattle in the state. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 15 Jun 83 p 9]

CSO: 5400/292

BRIEFS

KILLER DOG DISEASE RAMPANT--A KILLER dog disease around Pretoria's black township is fast approaching epidemic proportions. The SPCA has issued a warning to dog owners to have their dogs vaccinated against distemper, which is an incurable disease. An inspector for the SPCA, Mr Nkuna, told The SOWETAN that the symptoms were easy to detect. The dog suffers eye discharges, and eventually the eyes close over. At the same time a mucus hangs down the nostrils and the hind limbs become lame. The dog then lacks appetite and loses weight. The dog also starts foaming at the mouth. [Text] [Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 23 Jun 83 p 4]

CSO: 5400/291

BRIEFS

FOOT AND MOUTH QUARANTINE--DODOMA Region has quarantined Mazae and Kidongo villages in Mpwapwa District following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the areas. A statement from the Dodoma Regional Livestock Development Officer, Ndugu F. Minja said that it was prohibited to bring in or take out cattle, goats, sheep or pigs from the two villages. The quarantine also affects other by-products of livestock such as meat, hides or milk. Livestock auctions have also been closed in Kilolo Gulwe, Kibakwe, Rudi Chipogoro, Kisima and Mina villages in Mpwapwa District until further, the notice said. [Excerpt] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 12 Jun 83 p 1]

RINDERPEST VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--MOSHI--More than 135,000 cattle were vaccinated against rinderpest in Kilimanjaro Region between May 9 and June 7, Shihata has reported. The Kilimanjaro Regional Veterinary Officer, Dr. Louis Tesha, was optimistic that the campaign would be completed at the weekend instead of June 30 if no major problems occurred. Livestock auctions in the region were suspended on May 7 this year after the outbreak of rinderpest in Arusha, killing many cattle. This resulted in an acute shortage of meat, culminating in hiking of meat prices from official rates to 40/- a kilogramme. Dr. Tesha said that is was the aim of his department to wind up the campaign in Mwanga and Same districts so that cattle auctions could resume. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 13 Jun 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/294

BRIEFS

CANE SMUT THREAT--BELIZE SUGAR Board authorities reported last month that more than 60 per cent of the total cane acreage in Orange Walk and Corozal are susceptable to Smut infestation, even though only 5 varieties of the cane in cultivation are prone to infection. This information is based on a smut field survey which has already examined more than 7000 acres of canefields. More than 60 percent of the area surveyed were planted with these smut-suceptable varieties. Canefarmers have been advised that the Development Finance Corporation may be ready to start disbursing smut rehabilitation loans to cane farmers soon. The DFC has approved loans sufficient to rehabilitate about 10,000 acres of smut-invested cane between now and 1986. [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 19 Jun 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/7585

COLORADO BEETLES FOUND; ARRIVED FROM POLAND

Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 11 Jun 83, p 7

[Article by Gunilla Roijer]

[Text] The Colorado beetle has arrived in Denmark. The feared pest, which destroys potatoes, has settled in the area around the Danish-West German border. So far, however, the beetle has not attacked entire potato fields.

In recent days, 10 cases of the feared Colorado beetle have been reported. The most recent discovery was in a window box in Tonder. Henning Andersen, head of the State Crop Inspection Agency, said that the beetles probably came to Denmark from Poland, East Germany, or West Germany, but he stressed that there was no reason for fear among the country's potato farmers, since the number of beetles found was still low.

This also was stated by Jens Hojmark Skanderborg, a consultant at the National Committee on Plant Cultivation.

"Colorado beetles are found in Denmark every year, but they have done no great damage in this country. We are able to keep them out. The few beetles that fly in do no great damage. We take care of them in a hurry. The situation is more serious if beetles have spent the winter here and laid eggs, which become larvae. In this case, the fields are sprayed with chemicals," said Jens Hojmark, who will begin his annual rounds to the potato fields on 20 June.

"Just a few years ago, thousands of beetles were found in the coastal regions. They also are found by the thousands south of the border on Luneburg Heath. Apparently, the Colorado beetle does not like the climate in Denmark. It may have come here along with imported potatoes or vegetables.

Some mature insects and larvae have been found in Sweden in potatoes and cabbage and in vegetables imported from Poland and Bulgaria. Thus, the State Crop Inspection Agency is concerned over the situation in the countries around the Baltic Sea, where an unusually high number of beetles have been found this year.

The Colorado beetle is yellow with black stripes down its back. Its larvae are red. Any Colorado beetles found should be reported to the State Crop Inspection Agency or the local police.

9336
CSO: 5400/2651

MORE COLORADO BEETLES FOUND IN JUTLAND

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 14 Jun 83 p 6

[Text] Several more of the feared Colorado beetles, which attack potato plants, have been found in North Schleswig. On Monday morning police in Haderslev received a report that several beetles had been found at two locations near Vojens.

During the past week almost 20 beetles were found in South Jutland, in North Schleswig, and on Langeland, but in each case only a few isolated beetles were found and, so far, the situation does not require countermeasures, according to Henning Andersen, head of the State Crop Inspection Agency.

On Monday this agency sent agents to Langeland, South Jutland, and North Schleswig to investigate the regions in which beetles have been found.

9336
CSO: 5400/2651

BRIEFS

COFFEE BEAN BORER--As a consequence of the recent discovery by experts of ISIC [Salvador Coffee Research Institute] of an outbreak of coffee borers on various farms in the canton of El Paste, Ahuachapan Jurisdiction, courses are being given for control of this pest and to prevent the spread to other areas of the country. The coffee borer is a pest which has spread through Guatemala and Honduras, and recently has invaded our territory through the area of Ahuacha, where it has infected small areas. At present, this insect together with coffee rust constitute the principal enemies of coffee growing with a significant economic impact. In Guatemala, experts calculate that this year they could have crop losses of more than 15 percent, due to the insect's attack. [Excerpt] [San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 Jun 83 p 25]

CSO: 5400/2088

COLORADO BEETLES REACHED PORTS FROM SHIP CALLING AT GDANSK

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 17 Jun 83 p 10

[Article: "Colorado Beetles Also Found in Kotka and Helsinki"]

[Text] Kotka--Colorado beetles were found on Thursday on an Indian cargo ship, which had called at the Port of Kotka. The ship had picked up its first load of cargo in Gdansk, Poland. Two potato insects, of which one was alive and vigorous and the other was dead, were found in the morning on the deck of the ship named Vishva Kirti.

Additional Colorado beetles were also found in Mikkeli and Kesko's central warehouse in Helsinki. Only one or two insects were found from both locations, and the danger of their spreading is not considered to be too great.

In Kotka the Kouvola Agricultural District immediately began an investigation of the ship containing these insects with the help of the customs office in Kotka, but no additional insects were found. The ship was almost completely loaded and the cargo was not offloaded. The ship will leave Kotka for Bombay on Friday with its load of newspaper print.

The Vishva Kirti came from Poland to Kotka over the weekend and waited in the harbor for a pier for 4 days. No cargo was offloaded in Kotka.

After this incident on Thursday all the ships coming from Poland to Kotka and Hamina were placed under special surveillance and they will be inspected for Colorado beetles.

Cauliflowers in Mikkeli Contained Beetles

A Colorado beetle was found from a shipment of cauliflowers in Mikkeli. The beetle was not alive.

The contaminated shipment of cauliflowers had come to Mikkeli from Kesko's warehouse in Helsinki. Also one beetle was found from a shipment of Polish cauliflowers on Thursday at the warehouse itself.

Kesko's central warehouse has sent out warnings and instructions to its district centers and through them to the merchants. The remainder of the shipment in the central warehouse will be frozen and then destroyed.

No more beetles were found on Thursday in the Port of Turku after the two beetles that were found on Wednesday on the MS Kwidzyn. Also no more beetles were found in Pori. The MS Kwidzyn proceeded to Pori from Turku.

Ships coming from Poland are being inspected with more than the usual scrutiny in Turku as well as Pori. For example, there has not been any sighting of beetles in Pori, which attests to the fact that the insect has not been able to establish itself in the area of Pori.

An extensive search for Colorado beetles was begun when more than 200 beetles were found from a shipment of plastic bags sent to the Rosenlew Company from Poland.

Exaggerated Fuss

Office Chief Jorma Rautapaa of the Plant Inspection Office of the Farm Administration considered the fuss about Colorado beetles to be exaggerated.

In his opinion it is especially important that the farmers keep an eye on their fields and take immediate measures to destroy insects if beetles are found.

Excesses are reached, however, when farmers begin to fear that their potatoes will disappear from their fields overnight. There is also the danger that even more serious diseases and insects will be ignored because of the search for beetles.

According to Rautapaa, the Colorado beetles that have been found are not in any way unique. Beetles are found from time to time in Finland on ships coming from Central Europe, sometimes in Chinese cabbages from Israel and sometimes from Polish potatoes.

The Colorado beetle is only one of approximately 250 insects and diseases which are intercepted on ships coming to Finland.

For example, Rautapaa considers the potato virus which came to Finland a couple years ago on a foreign ship to be considerably more dangerous. This virus, which prevents the growth of the potato, has clearly spread throughout southern Finland. According to Rautapaa, it should be considered far more dangerous to the production of potatoes than the Colorado beetle.

A Serious Threat in Poland

However, in Poland the Colorado beetle is becoming a serious threat to this year's potato crop according to Polish officials. In an official report published in Warsaw it states that favorable weather benefitted spring planting last month, but it also promoted the spread of plant diseases and parasites.

Precise details are not mentioned in the report. However, Western agricultural experts estimate that Colorado beetles may destroy approximately 10 percent of the estimated 42-million ton potato crop in Poland.

10576
CSO: 5400/2552

BRIEFS

COLORADO BEETLES FOUND--Colorado beetles were found in Pori on Tuesday. These potato destroyers were found in the unloaded cargo of a Polish freighter which had brought plastic raw materials to the Mantyluoto harbor, said harbor captain Hannu Sjoros. The Polish freighter arrived in Pori from Turku where it had unloaded part of its cargo last week. The Colorado beetle is a 7 to 12 mm long beetle which lays its orange eggs on the backside of potato leaves. A swarm of beetles will rapidly eat the leaves of an extensive potato field completely clean. As far as is known, Colorado beetles have not been found naturally in Finland. However, beetles have been found in train freightcars arriving from the Soviet Union, for example. Last summer some freight cars were turned back to the Soviet Union at the border stations at Vainikkala and Imatrankoski because of Colorado beetles. According to the Statute of Plant Protection, everybody who sees a Colorado beetle is under obligation to notify the nearest agricultural district office. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 8 Jun 83 p 9] [9677]

CSO: 5400/2548

BRIEFS

MEALYBUG MENACE--OFFICIALS of the Federal Government-owned National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) at Umudike, near Umuahia in Imo State, have alerted farmers in the country of the return of the cassava mealybug and spider mites diseases to the farm this year. The diseases were made to have been brought back to the farm by the protracted drought in the country at the early part of this year. In an official statement signed by the assistant director of the institute, Mr. Herbert Okereke, it was indicated that a research finding at the institute showed that burying of cassava sticks to a depth of about five to eight centimeters during planting could kill the diseases even if such sticks were previously infested. The farmers were also reminded of the need to plant cassava during the rains as the mealybug and spider mites diseases find it difficult to survive during the rainy season. Mr. Okereke, however, gave solutions to the Mealybug menace. It would be recalled that during the opening of a five-day international workshop on mealybug at the research institute, the former Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Sylvester Ugoh, said that within 1980 and 1981 the mealybug disease caused over ₦2 billion harm to the economy of Nigeria. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 20 Jun 83 p 24]

CSO: 5400/291

END