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ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

FIRST AIDS VICTIMS--According to reliable medical sources two people have died from the disease called Acquired Immunological Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and that six other persons show the same symptoms, but no details have been disclosed. It has also been learned that three medical teams have been created in Argentina to study this illness. [Summary] [PY040130 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 1 Sep 83 p 8]

CSO: 5400/2128

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

DIPHTHERIA IN SANTA CRUZ--Santa Cruz, 23 Aug--An outbreak of diphtheria which caused the death of a 6-year-old child in Puerto Fernandez, north of Santa Cruz, has been reported to the epidemiology department. Dr Nora Siles, head of the department, has stated that the situation is under control and that the afflicted people are youths from the interior of the country who had not been inoculated against diphtheria. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Aug 83 p 5 PY]

CSO: 5400/2129

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

LEPTOSPIROSIS IN SANTA CATARINA--Hudson Piazza, director of the Epidemics Department of the Public Health Service, confirmed that an outbreak of leptospirosis has killed one person in the Santa Catarina Hospital and that there are more suspect cases of this disease. [Summary] [PY280245 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Aug 83 p 6]

CSO: 5400/2121

INFANT MORTALITY DECREASE BASED ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 29

[Excerpt] One of the major achievements in the field of health is the reduction in infant mortality, which can only be called spectacular and dramatic.

In 1973, the infant mortality rate was 65.2 percent of all live births. By 1982, that rate had fallen to 23.4 percent, which represents a decrease of 64.2 percent.

Most of the drop can be attributed to the saving of lives. This progress means that in 1982, 11,595 nursing babies survived that would have died in 1973 under the same conditions.

Acute diarrhea and bronchial pneumonia were the diseases causing the greatest number of deaths. In 1973, the number of children under the age of 1 year dying from diarrhea was 2,679. By 1982, that figure had dropped to 330. The number of deaths attributed to bronchial pneumonia was 4,223 and 601 in those same two years.

The premature infant mortality rate dropped from 17.8 to 9.7 for every 1,000 inhabitants between 1974 and 1981.

International Level

In terms of meeting the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas drawn up for 1971 to 1980, our country easily met the marks, especially with regard to mothers and children. The achievements included: the eradication of poliomyelitis, a reduction in deaths due to measles to 0.1 percent, and a 51-percent reduction in deaths attributed to tuberculosis.

Deaths resulting from diarrhea dropped 58 percent, while the morbidity rate for the same disease also declined 58 percent.

The number of deaths among children between the ages of 1 and 4 dropped 60.3 percent.

Maternal mortality dropped 55.2 percent.

Second- and third-degree malnutrition declined by 86 and 48 percent.

These favorable results in reducing infant mortality are not only the result of work in the field of health, but also of the overall policy applied by the government with respect to children. It should be recalled that the infant mortality rate is affected by other factors such as education, environmental health, socioeconomic conditions, and so on, which makes coordinated and vigorous action in various fields indispensable.

The current regime has given constant support to the family, considering it to be the basic nucleus of society, whence food distribution programs, the fight against malnutrition, medical care for mothers and children, the formation of health habits, the improvement in home conditions and other areas, developed both officially and through volunteer organizations.

11,464

CSO: 5400/2120

TUBERCULOSIS CASES REACH 7,500 ANNUALLY

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Aug 83 p C5

[Text] Technology aimed at controlling tuberculosis has improved to such an extent that there are no more technical problems to be resolved. Nevertheless, the disease has not been eradicated. Some 1,100 persons die of the malady every year in Chile, while another 7,500 contract it during that same period of time.

This information was released by Dr Edgardo Carrasco, director of the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases and Thoracic Surgery, who is responsible for organizing the 16th Course on the Epidemiology and Control of Tuberculosis and Acute Respiratory Diseases which begins today at the institute.

Carrasco explained that at the present time, bacteriological and radiological methods of diagnosis exist which are of great sensitivity and specificity and that treatment is 100 percent effective. He said that since 1980, treatment has been reduced to 6 months, during which period of time drugs are administered daily for only two months. They are given only twice a week for the remaining four months.

The abbreviated treatment consists of a plan of therapy based on Isoniazida and Rifampicina, drugs with a high destructive capability for the Koch bacillus, which produces tuberculosis.

Health Problem

When asked about the reasons for the latency of this health problem, Carrasco said that "that is a complex question requiring a complex answer.

"First of all, there is an epidemiological factor and when a person contracts the Koch bacillus, it penetrates the organism, settling in the lungs or glands. In a minority of cases, it produces active tuberculosis and spreads rapidly.

"Generally, the organism's defense system is capable of controlling this multiplication. However, it cannot kill the bacillus, meaning that some remain in the organism, live and latent, and can multiply again when the defenses of the person in question are down. Consequently, some time may pass, varying and of undetermined length -- even years -- between the time of contagion and the outbreak of the disease."

Prevention

The specialist repeated that in Chile, 1,100 persons die from the disease every year, a figure that amounts to 2 million on the world scale. Our country also has 7,500 new cases a year.

"Despite the fact that there has been a drop in mortality -- some 2,275 persons died from the disease every year a decade ago -- we are far from satisfied with the current results. We must make more progress and achieve better coordination between people liable to contract the disease and health services."

This interaction must be as close as possible so that the people may have easy access to diagnosis and treatment, which are free in our country.

Carrasco emphasized that the greatest efforts must be aimed at searching for persons already carrying the bacillus, those registering a positive response to examination or the tuberculin test, which now makes it possible to detect 90 percent of all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The test is both easy and highly reliable. Conducted by the Public Health Institute and its national system of 169 laboratories, it has become one of the pillars of the programs of disease control.

11,464

CSO: 5400/2120

GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE 200.4 BILLION PESOS TO HEALTH SECTOR

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 10

[Article by Lucy Diaz]

[Text] The National Development Plan presented by the government to Congress stipulates a total of 200.4 billion pesos for the health sector during the 4-year period 1983-86, according to the minister of that branch, Jorge Garcia Gomez.

Fulfillment of the goals of the program for attention to individuals will require an investment of 20.6 billion pesos, including the activities corresponding to the Malaria Eradication Service; the operating expenses necessary to carry out the actions would have an approximate cost of 110.5 billion pesos, corresponding to the appropriations which would have to be made in the Ministry budget in order to transfer to the Sectional Services of Health and Hospitals. In total, the cost of the program would reach 131.1 billion pesos.

Fulfillment of the environmental program, which includes the programs of the Ministry's Directorate of Environmental Health and the National Institutes of Health and Municipal Development, included under the National Environmental Plan (Planam), will require investments of around 50.3 billion pesos.

For the infrastructure program, which will include personnel training, research, all activity inherent in the development of the National Health System and the construction, remodeling and endowment of hospitals, resources have been estimated at 16.9 billion pesos in the 4 years of the plan.

The development of security programs will require around 2.1 billion pesos, according to preliminary studies.

Resources for 1983

The activities to be carried out in 1983 will require approximately 38 billion pesos. In the draft budget for 1983 funds are programmed in the amount of 20.4 billion, which would indicate that in order to realize the anticipated activities it will be necessary to appropriate additional resources of 17.6 billion pesos, of which 14 billion correspond to investment, according to the document developed by the National Planning Department.

Minister Jorge Garcia Gomez indicated that the National Health Plan contains the foundation of the current administration's policy: Equity, austerity in expenditures, the raising of moral standards in the administration, inter- and intra-sectoral coordination, development and technological enhancement of institutions and the maximum exploitation of existing resources.

He said that he gives a high priority to the mother and child group, the working population, the handicapped, the elderly, the poor, Indians, and population of the marginal urban and rural areas.

Situation of the Sector

On presenting the Health Plan, attended by Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, director of the Pan American Health Office, the high-ranking official said among other things that the 1982 population of 26,966,000 inhabitants is expected to increase to 29,194,000 in 1986.

The annual 2.1 percent growth rate has been declining since the mid-1960s, when the rapid decline in the birthrate began. The birthrate moved from 41 live births per 1,000 inhabitants in 1968 (831,000 births) to 27 per 1,000 in 1982 (728,000 births). Life expectancy at birth has reached approximately 63 years.

Currently, 37.7 percent of the population is less than 15 years old and 4.8 percent or 1,305,000 persons are older than 60; in 1968 this last group included 1,522,000 persons.

Regarding the degree of urbanization of the population, 35 percent live in dispersed rural areas and 8 percent in concentrated rural areas, 23 percent in localities of 2,500 to 99,999 inhabitants and the remaining 34 percent in medium-sized and large cities. There has been a modification of this pattern over time, with a progressive reduction of the rural proportion of the population and of that residing in small localities.

Health Status

According to the document submitted by National Planning, the analysis of the level of health during the last 10 years indicates that despite the systematic reduction of the death rate, the changes in the structure of the death rate and the increase in life expectancy, the problem of health continues to be one of great magnitude and has the typical characteristics of countries in transition toward development.

12372

CSO: 5400/2115

BRIEFS

SECOND AIDS PATIENT REGISTERED--Already a second Finnish man has been confirmed as having contracted AIDS; a previous case was confirmed at the end of June. Both patients, homosexual men, are being treated at Aurora Hospital in Helsinki. AIDS is, for the time being, a disease of unknown etiology, which results in death in approximately half of its victims due to infectious diseases or cancer as the body's immune system breaks down. The Finnish AIDS cases were observed in a study funded by the Finnish Academy, in which 100 homosexuals voluntarily participated. The first phase of the study has been completed, but an analysis of the study and a follow-up of the individuals examined are still continuing. The director of the study group, docent Antti Ponka, states that the situation in Finland is under control. All physicians have been provided with guidelines for recognizing early symptoms of the disease. The disease's risk group is small according to Ponka. Those in the greatest danger are male homosexuals who have had many partners in large foreign cities. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 18 Aug 83 p 6] 10576

CONJUNCTIVITIS ON RISE IN PENANG

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 25 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] Conjunctivitis has staged a comeback! It is confirmed that the number of conjunctivitis sufferers in Penang has increased since Monday, causing all hospitals and polyclinics there to heighten their vigilance.

A spokesman for Penang Medical and Health Service Bureau pointed out today that although the ailment has not spread out as an epidemic, all doctors working for government hospitals and health centers have been advised to be on the alert. He said the bureau has placed all possible sources of the affliction under strict observation.

He pointed out that beginning Monday the number of conjunctivitis sufferers who visited hospitals located in Georgetown, Pulau Sambu and Big Hill Foot [Malay name unknown] for treatment has been rising steadily.

The spokesman urged the public to go to hospital for medical treatment as soon as they feel some discomfort in the eye, instead of trying to treat the ailment themselves. Furthermore, they are requested to take note of the following three points:

1. strictly maintain personal hygiene;
2. avoid sharing with others the use of such daily articles as towels, handkerchiefs, pillows, etc.;
3. avoid mingling in congested public places, such as swimming pools and cinema houses.

A medical doctor said today that conjunctivitis is a rapidly contagious disease and a person is most likely to contract it after coming in contact with a carrier.

He added that every day at least five sufferers call at his office for treatment of conjunctivitis, the symptoms of which include eye irritation, swelling of the eyelids and sometimes blurred vision. However, he added, conjunctivitis does not lead to danger, just discomfort to the eyes, that's all.

He warned sufferers against rubbing their eyes in order to forestall complication.

CHOLERA REPORTED IN TERENGGANU

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 27 Jun 83 p 9

[Text] Since last Monday, 16 cholera patients have been sent to a special ward in the General Hospital here for medical treatment.

Among them, 5 persons, ranging from 3 to 64 years in age, were confirmed infected with cholera, while 9 others were suspected of getting the disease. The remaining 2 persons were reportedly confirmed to be cholera carriers.

According to a spokesman in the cholera-action section, out of six cholera cases, five were discovered in Kuala Terengganu District.

He said family members of the sufferers under medical treatment have been given pharmaceuticals to forestall contagion.

Dr Jack Luce (phonetic), chief health and medical inspector in Terengganu, told a reporter that the authorities are vigorously investigating the main causes of the highly contagious disease. Although it is not easy to pinpoint the real sources, it may be affirmed that food and water are normally the main media for affliction.

At present the second and third wards of the Kuala Terengganu General Hospital have been specially assigned for cholera patients. Visitors are prohibited from bringing in food during the restricted visiting hours.

9300

CSO: 5400/4443

LARGEST NUMBER OF VD SUFFERERS FOUND IN EAST MALAYSIA

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 26 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Health announced today that Sarawak and Sabah in recent years have become the two states with the largest numbers of venereal disease [VD] sufferers throughout Malaysia.

Last year there were a total of 5,896 registered VD cases nationwide, an increase of 21 percent over 1981!

And in 1980 there were only 3,635 registered cases.

Dr K. L. Loh, deputy supervisor of the Epidemic Diseases Service Division of the Ministry of Health said the steep increase in VD cases this year has been caused by the correspondingly large increase in gonorrhea cases in Sarawak State.

Out of the total number of gonorrhea cases last year, Sarawak and Sabah accounted for 81 percent. In other words, there are 165 gonorrhea victims out of every 100,000 inhabitants. In sharp contrast, in West Malaysia there are only 8 sufferers per 100,000 inhabitants.

Among the 11 states in West Malaysia, Penang has the highest incidence of VD cases, with 8 percent of the total. Johore is next, with 3 percent, followed by Perak with 2 percent. Perlis has the lowest VD cases throughout the nation, with only 0.2 percent, followed by the Federal Territory (0.3 percent) and Selangor (0.4 percent).

As regards syphilis, 668 cases were reported last year, an increase of only 30 from 1981's figure. The reports came from Penang, Sarawak, Johore, Terengganu, Kedah and Sabah.

Dr Loh pointed out that the authorities are making special efforts to protect pregnant women by examining them periodically, making sure that they, as well as their unborn babies, do not fall prey to transmitted venereal diseases.

He said that if a pregnant woman is afflicted with VD, she runs high risks of transmitting the disease to her fetus, which would lead to the tragedy of giving birth to a deformed baby. Safeguarding expectant mothers against VD contagion forms one of the important tasks of the Epidemic Diseases Service Division.

Dr Loh continued that the program of his office includes the task of urging VD sufferers to go to hospital or polyclinic to accept medical treatment and at the same time imbuing them with common knowledge about venereal diseases. He divulged that a special VD treatment center has been set up within general hospitals all over the country to give VD sufferers speedy and effective service. Called "Social Hygiene Clinics," the institutions will also serve as centers for training personnel and gathering data.

To learn more about the prevention and cure of venereal diseases, the authorities are also planning to send out doctors and health officers to take special training courses locally or overseas.

Dr Loh said the authorities need experienced medical personnel to handle VD problems, because the public are most sensitive in their reactions toward venereal diseases. If the sufferers are willing to cooperate by supplying the required data, the authorities will be able to treat the diseases more effectively. Simultaneously, the doctors in charge who submit VD incidence reports to the authorities can obtain free lab facilities from the latter for them to carry out research on venereal diseases.

He chided private VD clinics which failed to file a report to the Ministry of Health, blaming them for obstructing the government's efforts to solve the problem.

Lacking the cooperation of private doctors, Dr Loh said, the Ministry of Health can rely only on guesswork in assessing the rampancy of venereal diseases and cannot launch any effective drive to solve this thorny problem.

He divulged that only one out of five VD outbreaks is being reported to the proper authorities.

Another difficult problem is that even though the doctors reported their diagnosis and treatment of the diseases, they refused to mention the sufferers' addresses. Consequently, the authorities cannot contact the victims to find out the source of contagion. Under such circumstances, Dr Loh predicted that the VD problem cannot be solved within a short period of time; on the contrary, it is quite possible VD will continue to run rampant.

At present, the Epidemic Diseases Service Division obtains its data mostly from government-operated hospitals and clinics; only a few private clinics have submitted VD examination reports.

Also, the reports submitted by government hospitals are far from detailed. Normally the doctors merely wrote down the type of VD, name of bacteria, result of diagnosis and number of times of examination. Never did they include the names and addresses of the patients in their reports.

Dr Loh stated his office had sent doctors written requests for cooperation, but their reaction has been cool thus far. He also blamed certain doctors for having made unfair statements to newspapers criticizing the Ministry of Health for failing to check VD's rampancy.

He said that these doctors, on the one hand, complained about the rising incidence of VD cases, yet they do not bother to send in medical reports on the cases under their care, on the other.

His office is, in fact, very much concerned about the problem of VD rampancy and constantly watching its development, but he must first understand the overall situation before executing effective actions, Dr Loh concluded.

9300

CSO: 5400/4443

AIR POLLUTION, RESPIRATORY DISORDERS, IMMUNITY RELATED

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE]
in Chinese No 3, May 83 pp 154-156

[Article by the Teaching and Research Group of Environmental Health, Guangxi Medical College, Nanning; et al.: "Relationship Between Air Pollution and Prevalence of Upper Respiratory Tract Disorders and Immunity Among Children"]

[Summary] In this study, children 7 to 12 years of age from polluted and unpolluted areas were compared for respiratory infections. The annual air monitoring results showed that the concentrations of SO₂, NO₂ and total deposited dust in the polluted area were significantly higher than those in the unpolluted area. Through physical examination, a higher incidence of upper respiratory infection was found in the polluted area than in the unpolluted area. Certain indices of immunity levels were also changed. The activity of lysozyme in saliva was inhibited, the IgG in serum increased and E-Rosette forming rate decreased. The findings indicate that air pollution is related to increased incidence of upper respiratory infection and certain changes of immunity.

9717

CSO: 5400/4159

HARD DRINKING WATER, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE MORTALITIES DISCUSSED

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE]
in Chinese No 3, May 83 pp 129-133

[Article by the National Research Collaborating Group on the Hardness of Drinking Water and Health: "Relationship Between Hardness of Drinking Water and Mortality of Cardiovascular Diseases"]

[Summary] This paper is an investigation of the relationship between the mortality of cardiovascular diseases [coronary heart disease (CHD), hypertensive heart disease (HHD) and brain vascular disease (BVD)] and hardness, i.e., calcium, magnesium, chloride as well as sulfate contents, of drinking water in 37 cities and towns during 1979-1980. Correlation and multiple stepwise regression methods were used.

The death rates of cardiovascular diseases were obtained from the national retrospective investigation data of the causes of death due to cancer during 1974-1976. The data of water quality of waterworks were obtained from health and anti-epidemic prevention stations. At the high water and low water periods in 1980, the data on the water quality were particularly checked. The hardness of water in the investigated points was from 0.12 to 39.8 degrees (German scale).

It was found that the death rate of CHD+HHD in males and females and the hardness, calcium and magnesium in drinking water showed a positive correlation. The death rate of BVD in females and the hardness and magnesium in drinking water showed a positive correlation. The death rate of CHD+HHD in males and females as well as the death rate of BVD in males and the hardness of drinking water showed a positive correlation. The relation of the death rate of BVD in females and chloride in drinking water showed a negative correlation.

These results do not agree entirely with the conclusions of other investigators, i.e., that the relation between the hardness of drinking water and the mortality of cardiovascular diseases shows a negative correlation. It seems in revising the standards of drinking water in China it is not necessary at present to consider setting up a lowest limit of hardness. This is a problem which still requires further investigation.

PERU

BRIEFS

HIGH TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE REPORTED--The Peruvian Association of Phthisic, Pneumonic, and Thoracic Diseases has reported in Lima that one person dies every 3 hours from tuberculosis in Peru and that at least 46 catch the disease every day. Luis Cano Gironde, a director of the association, stressed that those figures are only those that have been registered, and that 40 percent of the Peruvian population don't know why they are dying. He added that 80 percent of the deaths from tuberculosis are those of people from 20 to 60 years old, the most productive period in human lives. He blamed this serious situation on bad administration in the Peruvian health sector. [Text] [PA281310 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Aug 83]

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS--Mauro Sanchez, head of the tuberculosis monitoring program, revealed on 19 August, during the course of the national tuberculosis workshop seminar--which was organized by the Peruvian social security institute--that there are approximately 18,000 people in the country who suffer from tuberculosis. Sanchez noted that for every 100,000 Peruvians, 98 suffer from tuberculosis and this ratio indicates that there are a total of 17,640. This number ranks among the highest along with Bolivia and Ecuador. The mortality rate is also high in Peru; 3,000 people die of tuberculosis every year. [Ex-erpts] [PY060208 Lima EL DIARIO MARKA in Spanish 20 Aug 83 p 8]

CSO: 5400/2130

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

MALARIA IN NEGROS--The Malaria eradication service unit of the Health Ministry reported a slight increase in the incidence of the Mosquito-borne disease among residents of Hinobaon, Negros Occidental. Dr Carlos de la Rama, Provincial health officer, said that 13 out of 113 patients who submitted their blood smear were positive victims of malaria falciparum in Hinobaan town, 200 kms. south of Bacolod. Dr dela Rama said that the hike in positive cases indicate a downtrend of malaria in Southern Negros Occidental where a team from the MOH Region VI Malaria Eradication Service Unit has been operating. [Text] [Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 6 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4463

SWEDEN

COUNTRY RECORDS FIRST THREE DEATHS OF AIDS PATIENTS

Homosexual-Men Survey Starting

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 17 Aug 83 p 5

[Article by Gun Leander]

[Text] A mass investigation of all homosexual men in Sweden is planned as early as this fall. In this way, the doctors hope to track down those in the risk group for AIDS that today are unaware that they carry the infection or have less resistance than others.

A basic program on how such a health investigation is to proceed is now being worked out in cooperation with, among others, the dermatology department at Soders Hospital and the state bacteriological laboratory.

"There is no reason to panic about AIDS in Sweden where we have such excellent possibilities of making mass studies of whole sections of the population," Doctor Geo von Krogh of Soder Hospital's Department of Dermatology and Venereal Diseases said.

In spite of the fact that no one knows anything about the infection yet, there are several concrete steps that can be taken.

"Aids is not transmitted by a handshake, by dripping infection, or by airborne particles," von Krogh said.

Four Years

The infectious matter has probably circulated for a long time, because it has been shown that the incubation period is long -- from six months to four years between the infection and the outbreak of the disease. Researchers have now discovered a hereditary factor that can make a person more susceptible to AIDS.

Geo von Krogh himself believes more in the theory of a leukemia virus called HTLV, which is a human T-cells virus that causes leukemia. Among AIDS patients there is an excessive buildup of antibodies against this virus.

There are groups that are socially and economically susceptible to the leukemia virus, chiefly in the Caribbean Islands and in certain parts of Africa.

Those who become ill from the virus often already have other chronic infections or a weakened immune system.

In poor countries, an excess of tuberculosis is usual, for example. A person with a normal immune system can fight off this leukemia virus without any other symptoms appearing. Others can have weak symptoms such as swollen lymph glands and afterwards become well again. The third group gets AIDS, probably because their immune systems were already weakened earlier. All these have been infected by the virus and can transmit the infection, even though the symptoms may have been vague.

Now researchers are working out a blood test that will make it possible to find the real risk group for AIDS, which does not just consist of homosexual men with many partners, but also of other groups, for example, patients with recent organ transplants, persons who get cell poisoning or radiation treatments, patients with hemophilia, and fetuses exposed to infection from their mothers. Heterosexual women who are partners of drug addicts who take intravenous injections were found to have suspicious symptoms in an American study.

"AIDS does not just strike anyone. A weakening of the immune system is clearly necessary from the beginning. Besides this, a very intimate infectious contact is necessary, either sexual or through sores, blood products and mucous membranes," von Krogh said.

Mass Vaccination

"Therefore it is so important for those who are homosexuals with many partners to go to the public health service and be thoroughly checked even if they lack clear symptoms. The Social Council has a great responsibility to see that health service personnel are properly informed so that unnecessary anguish can be avoided."

Geo von Krogh regards mass vaccination of all homosexual men against B-hepatitis as one of the many measures to prevent unnecessary reduction of immunity that can lead to AIDS. Such a vaccination costs about 1,000 kronar, but he feels it is money well spent from a national-economic point of view.

Both hepatitis A and B are significantly more common among homosexuals than among others. The symptoms are often so vague that neither the patient nor the doctor discovers the illness. It can appear as a light depression or as great tiredness.

Hepatitis is very hard on the body, and if the 50 percent of the homosexuals who have not yet had the illness are vaccinated, much suffering can be avoided. Often these are young people of working age. But experiences among homosexuals

of the Swedish Health Service are often negative. One of ten reports encountering negative attitudes among hospital personnel when they look for various symptoms.

First Death in Sweden

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 17 Aug 83 p 5

[Article by Gun Leander]

[Excerpts]

[Text] The man who died Friday of AIDS -- the mysterious disease that up to now has stricken at least 2,000 persons throughout the world -- is one of the first three Swedish cases.

Up to now, AIDS has proven to be a disease with 80 percent mortality. Doctors still do not know what causes the disease or how it can be cured. In Stockholm now there are about 50 men who get regular checks for suspected early stages of AIDS.

But it may be a coincidence that homosexual men are the ones most often stricken. This summer reporters have found that the disease does not just strike homosexuals, but also drug addicts and patients with hemophilia who have received blood transfusions.

It is not known how AIDS is transmitted, but there is much evidence that ordinary contact with other people is not sufficient. In some way the infection is carried further through the blood.

One of the Swedish experts who suspects this is Linda Morfelt Mansson of Roslagstull Hospital, who believes that in the absence of scientific knowledge, all homosexuals should keep away from sauna clubs where partner exchanges are common.

"Clearly, sexual technique plays a part. Anal sex makes it easy for the infection to be introduced into the body by way of the blood vessels. The homosexual men who want to minimize the risks should avoid this type of tight contact and stick to as few partners as possible. It is important to remember that a large group of homosexual men live together as couples, and in practice this means that their chances of getting the disease are just as small as for heterosexuals."

Two Other Patients Die

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 18 Aug 83 p 10

[Article by Arne Soderlund]

[Text] AIDS took its first victim in Sweden on Friday. Two very sick persons are being cared for now in Stockholm's

Infection Clinics. There can be only one outcome.

The greatest source of infection for AIDS is the activity at the so-called sauna clubs for homosexual men.

But the community authorities have no plans to close the clubs. In this case, it should be the Health Service Office that should step in.

The office's spokesman for medical questions is at present Dr. Lennart Hellstrom. "In the first place," he says, "we have no legal justification for closing the clubs. Second, it is not the clubs that are dangerous, but the activity -- sexual relations involving many persons. The activity would probably just move to other places if the clubs were closed. Then we might not have any idea of what was going on. The fact is that the Health Service Office often takes action against the clubs, against the general hygienic conditions there. We can crack down on things like cleanliness and toilets. Third, homosexuals simply have to have some place to meet."

Great Effect

Therefore the Health Service Office in Stockholm does not know whether it can or should close the sauna clubs. The office's politicians can possibly change this.

The Social Committee does not feel that it has the means to combat AIDS, either.

"I believe that the publicity AIDS has had will have a great effect on homosexuals. They will understand that they must abstain from promiscuous sexual behavior," Medical Advisor Lennart Rinder said.

The Social Committee cannot produce more venereal disease polyclinics, for example, whenever they are needed. But the voters can by putting pressure on the politicians of the County Council. All concerned can take part in this pressure, whether they are heterosexuals or homosexuals, inside or outside of RFSL.

9124

CSO: 5400/2575

NEW FOOT-AND-MOUTH FOCI DETECTED; VACCINATION CAMPAIGN DISCUSSED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jul 83 p 7-B

[Text] At the moment that the Agriculture Ministry postponed the official launching of the vaccination cycle against foot-and-mouth disease, a new eruption of the disease was detected at the "Puerto Cabello" ranch, property of Jaime Lozano Rozo, rancher and veterinarian who last 2 February used the thick vaccine.

Apparently, the eruption moved from the hogs to the cattle area and has affected 105 steers of the aforementioned herd since last week. Considering that he has spent more than 30 years administering vaccinations, Lozano Rozo believes that the occurrence of the disease is not related to any lack of vaccinations.

The new eruption, which is recorded in Gachancipa, offers the traditional clinical picture of foot-and-mouth of type "O." Up to now, two cows have died. Milk production is down to one-fourth since 100 sick cows produce only three pails of milk a day. The intrinsic losses are estimated at more than 9 million pesos.

Although the rancher refrained from condemning the immunizing quality of the thick vaccine, he said that it is possible that some of the lots numbered 04 and 03 are deficient inasmuch as he bought 70 doses from the first and 300 from the second. He also said that his neighbors have used the traditional vaccine, and foot-and-mouth disease has not reached the extremes of virulence that can be seen on his ranch.

In another area, EL TIEMPO has learned that the Colombian Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, ICA, held a technical meeting to study the achievements of the vaccination program for the second half of 1983 and next year.

The minister of agriculture, Roberto Junguito Bonnet, and the managers of ICA and of the Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise, Vecol, participated as did experts on foot-and-mouth disease. The launching of the new plan was to have occurred yesterday, Friday.

The aforementioned program is designed to be carried out over 9 years and seeks to maintain immunity in the area of the north of the Choco, to protect the areas of the Amazon and insular regions, to eliminate the disease from the north and west of the country and to decrease the morbidity in the rest of the national territory.

Similarly, the involvement of Raul Cases, director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, had been planned for by an invitation from Colombia to lend his services to the consultations on research, production, vaccination control, and evaluation of health campaigns.

12372

CSO: 5400/2115

BRIEFS

PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA IN SHEEP--An article by doctors T. Perianu, Al Mardari, P. Ursache, Elena Olarian and Maria Rominger, from the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine in Iasi, published in Bucharest REVISTA DE CRESTEREA ANIMALELOR in Romanian June 1983 pp 37-38, reports that pasteurella haemolytica has been identified and isolated in Romania in clinical cases of acute--edematous--septicemia in adult sheep. Some 14 cases appeared in a herd of Merinos sheep. The final diagnosis was made on the basis of bacteriological examinations. Some 2.69 percent of the 520 sheep in the herd contracted the disease. The illnesses began in March and April. Contributing factors were the low temperatures and heavy rainfall during this period and, especially the fact that, because of lack of shelter, the animals were kept outside under a roof and in a paddock, and received improper fodder. Twelve of the sheep were treated with mixed anti-pasteurella serum and recoveries were obtained in 11 cases. In addition to the treatment, fodder quality was improved and weather conditions also improved so no new cases of the disease have appeared. [Editorial Report] [Bucharest REVISTA DE CRESTEREA ANIMALELOR in Romanian Jun 83 pp 37-38]

CSO: 5400/3010

COLOMBIA

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO CONTROL PLANT PESTS PROPOSED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Jul 83 p 14-c

[Text] Six hundred experts of the Colombian Society of Entomology--Socolen--proposed a great national crusade for the biological and chemical management of almost 50 pests, which cause 30 percent of the country's recorded crop losses.

The proposal was made at the Tenth Entomological Congress which is being held in Bogota, at whose commencement the president of the association, Aristobulo Lopez, requested the government to provide quarters for the entity and to recognize it as an organization dedicated to research.

The entomologists celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of Socolen and alerted all of the agricultural sectors about the losses caused by deficient pest management and their contribution to production costs, which vary between 10 percent for potatoes to 40 percent for cotton.

The rice delphacid--which affected 80,000 hectares--the cotton weevil--which started the crisis--the white potato worm and potato tuberworm, which ruin crops in Boyaca and Antioquia--and the corn armyworm--which causes the loss of entire crops in the Andean region--are described by Socolen experts as the four most ruinous pests.

The country spends 2 billion pesos on insecticides. Eight hundred million are spend for the control of the white worm which affects potatoes. The cost of fighting these pests in Colombia is among the highest in the world. Socolen asks that means be found to reduce their prices by adding chemical management and biological management, which are comparatively less expensive.

The congress will continue next Friday, when two prizes will be awarded to two of the 70 pieces of work presented: the "Hernan Alcaraz Viecco" award to the best university work and the "Francisco Luiz Gallego" award to the best work presented by a member of Socolen.

The aforementioned works cover themes such as the sexual maturity of drones, the ovaries of egg-laying workers, biting and malaria transmission habits in Cordoba, the use of sexual hormones to capture the tomato borer, the resistance of beans to the ("lorito verde"), the life-cycle of the green strawberry spider mite, and species of bees native to Cundinamarca.

The preferred topic was that of bees, although there were also studies on insects which pollinize in African palm, the sorghum armyworm, sugar cane ("blandina"), the biology of the tick, tropical bumblebee nests, pine defoliating insects, (parasites of the tobacco weevil of tomatoes), and new parasites of importance to forestry in Colombia.

Of course the list continues: inventory of the potato moth, inventory of pests in Uraba and in rice, the effects of planting dates on cotton, the giant potato moth, comparison between chemical and biological controls, an economic study on the bean mite, guayaba infestation, biology of the white carrot worm, and 45 other studies.

12373

CSO: 5400/2115

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

ARMY WORMS INVADE CEBU CROPS--Crops planted in 22 hectares of farmlands have been destroyed by army worms which continue to hit four towns in Cebu, according to the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) provincial office. Tita Dadivas of the M.A. provincial office said the crop pests, which usually appear after a long drought, have damaged farmlands in Balamban, Alcoy, Compostela, and Samboan towns. She further said the insecticides are being sprayed on the affected areas. [Text] [Cebu City THE VISAYAN HERALD in English 6 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4463

BRIEFS

LEAF MINER INFESTATION--The June 1983 issue of VEGETALA PRODUCTIA-HORTICULTURA in Romanian, a review of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Industry published an article on pages 3-6 by N. Iacob, Haritinia Manolescu, and Virginia Pesoiu, from the Center for Research on Plant Protection in Bucharest, entitled: "The Leaf Miner (*Liriomyza trifolii* Burgess)--A Dangerous Pest for Greenhouse Crops" reporting that "during the past two years, in many greenhouses in Bucharest Municipality there have been mass invasions by a new pest affecting the major greenhouse vegetable and flower plants--namely the *Liriomyza trifolii* Burgess (Diptera: Agromyzidae)." The writers say that the insect, which came from the United States, was brought, in vegetable reproduction material, into the Netherlands, Denmark, England, France, Italy, Spain, the FRG, Hungary and Poland in 1977. In a short time it became a pest of major importance. The first signs of an attack by this insect in Romania were noted in 1981 in chrysanthemum, tomato, bean and cucumber plants. Experiments for learning about the insect and its mode of attack and for determining the most effective measures to combat it have been carried out since 1981 in the Berceni greenhouse enterprise in Bucharest. [Editorial Report] [Bucharest VEGETALA PRODUCTIA-HORTICULTURA in Romanian June 83 pp 3-6]

CSO: 5400/3011

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