From: Chief, Smallpox Eradication 21 December 1972

To: Smallpox Staff

Subject: Target Zero - Progress Report 2

I Introduction

With the smallpox season somewhat more advanced, the major problem areas for smallpox are coming into clearer focus. Problems on the sub-continent of Asia appear now to be substantially more formidable than we had anticipated. On the other hand, progress in Africa has been considerably better than expected.

I am deeply concerned about the pace of activity in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Major epidemics are occurring in central, western and south-western Bangladesh; in Sind Province, Pakistan; in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and northern Madhya Pradesh. Outbreaks in other areas are occurring as a result of spread from these foci. In addition, major epidemics have been discovered throughout previously smallpox-free Jammu and Kashmir State in India - an unexpected setback. And in Bihar State (India), previously highly endemic, work has been virtually at a standstill because of strikes. Considerably greater efforts than at present will be required if transmission is to be interrupted, let alone meet the 31 March targets.

Reports from Africa, however, have been highly gratifying. No cases have been discovered in Botswana for over 6 weeks despite active search. Ethiopia, despite a larger number of surveillance staff in the field, is recording an average of only 125-150 cases per week which is a reduction of 75% or more below the number occurring at this time last year. Sudan is reporting very few cases although the extent of progress is difficult to assess as little information has yet been provided regarding the extent and nature of present activities or epidemiological data regarding the few cases now being recorded.

Note must also be made of the fact that Afghanistan, for the first time, recorded a month free of known smallpox and Nepal's recent cases have all been able to be specifically traced to importation from known endemic areas of India.

II Target Areas

As no suggested revisions of the proposed target areas were received except the note that Bihar State had been inadvertantly omitted, I assume that the targets previously set forth are considered reasonable.

I should repeat that the target is defined in terms of areas which are anticipated to be endemic as of 31 March with the exception that all cases occurring outside of these areas after this date should be clearly and definitively identified as resulting directly or indirectly from importations.

Expected endemic areas as of 31 March:

1. Ethiopia - Begemdir Gojjam. Tigre and Wollo Provinces
2. Pakistan - Sind Province (except Karachi and Thatta Districts)
3. India
   - Uttar Pradesh State - 31 Districts
   - Bihar State - entire State
   - Madhya Pradesh State - 7 Districts
   - West Bengal State - 11 Districts
4. Bangladesh - 4 Districts
   Faridpur Jessore Khustia and Khulna Districts

1.1 Cases occuring within target area	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ethiopia	376	149	47
Pakistan	142	457	187
India	309	818	420
Bangladesh	295	554	-

1.2 Cases occurring outside target area but specifically traced to importations	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Afghanistan	5	0	0
Fr. Terr. of the Afars and the Issas	1	0	0
Somalia	0	5	0
Nepal	0	21	0

1.3 Total of all cases in categories 1.1 and 1.2	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1 128	2 004	654
Percent of world total cases in categories 1.1 and 1.2	52%	52%	68%

2.0 Cases occurring outside target area	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Botswana	50	0	0
Sudan	5	16	9
Ethiopia	311	446	59
Pakistan	246	92	84
India	302	586	162
Bangladesh	113	697	-
Total of all cases in category 2.0	1 027	1 837	314
Percent of all cases in category 2.0	48%	48%	32%

Note: data as of 20 December 1972

III Reporting

Prompt reporting at all levels is of course essential. By 20 December, reports from all areas should have been received by WHO through week 49 (week ending 18 November).

The following endemic areas were in default:

	No. of weeks
Bangladesh	1
Nepal	1
India - Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	2
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	3
Nagaland	5
Tripura	2
Chandigarh	3
Haryana	1
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	2
Bihar	3
Madhya Pradesh	2
West Bengal	1
Kerala	1
Goa	2

While the speed of reporting from India is clearly improving, it is noted that the cumulative number of weeks which all states were deliquent in reports was 34 as of Report 1, but for this report the total is 40.