From: Chief, Smallpox Eradication 2 February 1973

To: Smallpox Staff

Subject: Target Zero - Progress Report 4

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Discussions at Executive Board

At the Executive Board, a special report on the smallpox eradication programme was requested and this was discussed over a period of approximately 2 hours. A resolution was subsequently proposed and adopted. Attached as an Annex to this report is a copy of the report presented, a copy of the provisional records of the discussion which took place and a copy of the resolution which was adopted.

It is noted that, in response to earlier requests, the smallpox programme has been placed on the agenda of the forthcoming Assembly as a special topic for debate.

1.2 Present smallpox situation

Presented below are the numbers of cases reported in 1972, along with numbers of cases reported to date and comparisons with last year.

	1972	1972 (last year)	1973 (to date)
Ethiopia	16 889	1 690	321
Sudan	827	7	1
India	27 309 (42%)	902 (29%)	1 918 (59%)
Pakistan	7 046	388	534
Bangladesh	10 761	0	480
Other	2 110	153	3
	64 942	3 140	3 257

There is thus an overall 4% increase in the world's cases compared with the same period last year. A marked decrease in Ethiopia and the group of other countries is counter-balanced by a doubling in the number of cases in India, an increase in cases in Pakistan and the occurrence of cases in Bangladesh where, as you may recall, none were detected prior to the return of refugees in February.

The increase in cases in India is of mounting concern. While reporting has no doubt improved, one senses that outbreaks are more extensive and serious than last year. Thus far, India accounts for 59% of the world's reported cases but when delayed reporting is taken into account, the actual proportion is nearer 75%. A far more intensive effort than now will be required if transmission in India is to be interrupted at any time in the near future. In fact, if present trends continue India could record its highest smallpox incidence since 1967.

2.0 Target areas (31 March 1973)

These are the same as intimated to you in Progress Report 2 with the exception in Bangladesh that Barisal District replaces Kushtia District and in Pakistan Sibi District in Baluchistan Province has been added.

1. Ethiopia - Begemdir Gojjam, Tigre and Wollo Provinces

2. Pakistan - Sind Province (except Karachi and Thatta Districts)
Baluchistan Province (Sibi District)

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, Barisal and Khulna Districts

The proportion of cases occurring within the 31 March target areas or which represent rapidly contained importations from these areas is tending to increase. This is encouraging. At present, the only country which now appears certain to fail in meeting the agreed objectives is India which is continuing to experience major outbreaks in the western districts of Uttar Pradesh as well as in Jammu and Kashmir with frequent importations into neighbouring areas of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

In both Pakistan and Bangladesh continuing, concerted efforts will be required if smallpox is to be confined to the limited areas noted by the end of March.

2.1 Cases occurring within target area	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Ethiopia	383	217	227	61
Pakistan	263	469	617	337
India	357	986	2 801	1 362
Bangladesh	319	663	649	261
Cases occurring outside target area but specifically traced to importations	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**	**Jan.**
Afghanistan	9	4	0	0
Fr. Terr. of the Afars and Issas	1	0	0	0
Somalia	0	5	0	0
Nepal	0	21	5	3
Sudan	0	0	1	0
India	0	0	3	7
Total of all cases in category 2.1	**Oct.** 1 332	**Nov.** 2 365	**Dec.** 4 303	**Jan.** 2 031
Percent of world total cases in category 2.1	58	55	70	62
2.2 Cases occurring outside target area	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**	**Jan.**
Botswana	50	0	0	0
Sudan	5	16	18	1
Ethiopia	384	481	262	260
Pakistan	125	100	178	197
India	292	692	1 056	549
Bangladesh	89	660	371	219
Total of all cases in category 2.2	**Oct.** 945	**Nov.** 1 949	**Dec.** 1 885	**Jan.** 1 226
Percent of all cases in category 2.2	42	45	30	38

Note: Data as of 30 January 1973

3.0 Reporting

By 30 January, reports from all areas should have been received by WHO through week 3. Except for Bangladesh (one week in arrears), all areas cooperated except those in India. The status of reporting in India shows little improvement over previous reports. It is noted that the cumulative number of weeks for which all states were delinquent was 34 per Report 1; 40 per Report 2; 58 per Report 3; and 52 per this report.

The following endemic areas were in default:

	No. of weeks
Bangladesh	1
India - Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	2
Manipur	6
Meghalaya	2
Nagaland	6
Tripura	1
Chandigarh	3
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jammu & Kashmir	3
Punjab	2
Bihar	2
Rajasthan	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Uttar Pradesh	1
West Bengal	1
Kerala	5
Goa	1