From: Chief, Smallpox Eradication 14 August 1973

To: Smallpox Staff

SUBJECT: Target Zero - Progress Report 12

1.0 Overview

As the summer progresses, the global smallpox incidence continues to decline - estimates indicate a decrease of 50% in incidence between May and June and a further 40% from June to July. Based on the experience of previous years, further decreases in August and September may be expected.

The greatest risk at this time is that of "summer optimism" and a relaxation of efforts, leading to yet another epidemic year for smallpox followed by yet another epidemic of activity. This cycle can only be broken, of course, by an epidemic of activity preceeding the usual epidemic of smallpox. A very great deal remains to be accomplished and this is perhaps better appreciated in the context of smallpox incidence during past years. Note:

1) During May, June and July, 1973, more cases of smallpox will be recorded than in any May-July period since 1967. In 1967, however, 30 countries were endemic - today, only four.

2) A comparison of smallpox incidence for May and June 1973 and the highest previous recorded incidence in the endemic countries for May and June which has occurred since 1967 is of interest:

	May			June		
	Prev. high.	Cases	1973	Prev. high.	Cases	1973
Bangladesh	1972	3 299	4 142*	1967	560	2 694*
India	1967	10 408	13 515*	1967	7 248	5 631*
Pakistan	1972	823	1 561*	1971	907	1 147*
Ethiopia	1971	2 175	610	1972	1 183	301

* Highest recorded total for month since 1967

Record levels are being established this year in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. The fact that in all of these countries, smallpox endemic areas now constitute only a part of the country, make these observations yet more striking. For example, 86% of the cases in Pakistan are reported fron one province containing less than 20% of the population.

3) One area of Pakistan (Sind Province specifically) shows no sign, as yet, of a seasonal decrease in incidence.

4) In India, since week 27, a total of less than 100 cases per week have been recorded from all states in the eastern, western and southern regions combined. Seemingly, these few foci should be able to be effectively and quickly eliminated - and yet, in regard to most of these areas, disappointingly little information has been available to date in regard to sources of infection and effectiveness of containment in these areas.

4) Even in Ethiopia which clearly has the most outstanding record of success, foci of infection continue to be widely dispersed through a number of provinces despite persistent efforts to confine infection to three or, at most, four provinces.

In brief, all possible resources are required from this point onwards if the transmission cycle is to be broken. As is apparent, the modest seasonal decline in incidence so far observed should invoke no optimism anywhere.

2.0 Target areas

The proportion of cases occurring now in the December target areas continues to hover in the 80% range. By September/October, this should be reaching the 90% mark if the end December target is to be achieved.

2.1 Cases occurring within December 31 target area	May	June	July
Bangladesh	3 384	2 278	463
Ethiopia	272	50	72
India	12 262	4 599	3 257
Pakistan	592	382	372
Cases occurring outside target area but specifically traced to importations			
Afghanistan	-	-	11
Ethiopia	1	-	-
Fr. Terr. Afars & Issas	-	-	2
India	151	176	62
Nepal	52	31	42
Pakistan	25	-	-
Somalia	1	3	-
Total of all cases in category 2.1	16 740	7 519	4 281
Per cent of world total cases in category 2.1	84%	77%	83%
2.2 Cases occurring outside target area			
Bangladesh	758	416	139
Ethiopia	337	251	133
India	1 102	856	245
Pakistan	944	765	388
Total all cases in category 2.2	3 141	2 288	905
Per cent of all cases in category 2.2	16%	23%	17%

Note: Data as of 7 August 1973

3.0 Reporting

As of 7 August, reports should have been received from all areas through week 30. As per the surveillance report, only Bangladesh and India remain deficient and communications just received from Bangladesh indicate that difficulties there have been resolved so that subsequent reports will be current. For India, progress report 11 (20 July) showed for all states that reports were in arrears to the extent of 40 weeks. This week, the cumulative total is 22 - a decided improvement which, hopefully, may continue.

	Weeks in arrears	
Bangladesh (all divisions)	2	(see note above)
India		
Arunachal Pradesh	1	
Assam	2	
Chandigarh	1	
Goa	4	
Haryana	3	
Himachal Pradesh	1	
Jammu & Kashmir	2	
Kerala	1	
Madhya Pradesh	2	
Manipur	1	
Punjab	1	
Rajasthan	1	
Tripura	1	
West Bengal	1	