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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD



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SMALLPOX ERADICATION (PROPOSED METHOD OF FINANCING)

Report by the Director-General

1. In the Introduction to the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1967,<sup>1</sup> the Director-General stated:

"The amount of \$ 2 400 400 required to finance the first-year operations in the proposed ten-year smallpox eradication programme has tentatively been included in the special account for this purpose under the Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion. It is however my duty to point out that at the time of preparation of the present document, the likelihood of obtaining such funds for the smallpox eradication programme appeared very slim indeed. In view of the urgent need to solve this great public health problem, the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly may wish to take more realistic and effective action by including the cost of the first-year eradication work in the regular budget for 1967."

2. In document EB37/23 the technical plans for a programme of smallpox eradication have been outlined. The purpose of this document is to suggest a possible method of financing the programme on an assessed basis, since it is evident that the Organization will not be able to obtain sufficient voluntary contributions to ensure that it can carry out its responsibilities as declared by the Eighteenth World Health Assembly.

3. From experience the Director-General knows that the only method of securing the continued financing of the programme until its completion, is to include it in the regular budget. In doing so, arrangements could be made whereby any Member who is carrying out or undertakes to carry out a smallpox eradication programme in close co-ordination with WHO would not be assessed on the same basis for the amounts budgeted for this purpose as for the other parts of the regular budget.

<sup>1</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., 146, XIX.

4. One method by which this could be done would be to include in the budget a separate appropriation section for the total amount to be budgeted for smallpox eradication. The usual scale of assessments would be applied to all parts of the budget, except for the amounts in this section where an adjusted scale of assessments would be applied. Those Members in whose countries smallpox is endemic and who declare that they are carrying out or undertake to carry out a smallpox eradication programme in close co-ordination with WHO would be excluded from the list of countries to be assessed. The remainder of the membership of the Organization would be assessed for the amount included in the Appropriation Resolution for the Smallpox Eradication Programme on the same proportionate basis as for the normal scale of assessment, with the continued application of the principles which have governed the scale of assessments.

5. Should this plan be acceptable, it would be necessary for the Assembly to establish by resolution which countries should be excluded from the special scale of assessments. Should the Executive Board be in agreement and recommend such an arrangement for acceptance by the Nineteenth World Health Assembly, it might wish to authorize the Director-General to communicate with the Members of the Organization, informing them about this proposal.

5.1 Two methods could be followed.

5.1.1 One would be to request all Members to communicate their intentions in writing to the Director-General and to invite them to transmit such communications by the opening of the next World Health Assembly.

5.1.2 Another method would be to ask Members that, at the time of their attendance at the Nineteenth World Health Assembly, they be prepared to give assurance that they are carrying out or undertake to carry out a smallpox eradication programme under the general direction of and in close co-ordination with WHO.

5.2 On the basis of such assurances the Assembly would be in a position to decide which Members should be excluded from the adjusted scale of assessments to cover the provision for the smallpox eradication programme contained in the Appropriation Resolution.