

Joint meeting of the International Commissions for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication
from the Horn of Africa & the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication
Nairobi, Kenya
October 1979

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TOP (l to r): Global Commission members Dr Holger B Lundbeck (Sweden) & Dr Kalisa Ruti (Zaire); WHO SEP unit Medical Officer Dr Zdeno Jezek; WHO advisor Ato Yemane Tekeste (Ethiopia); Commission Chair Dr Frank Fenner (Australia); former SEP unit chief Dr DA Henderson (USA)

CENTER (l to r) SEP unit chief Dr Isao Arita (Japan); former SEP unit chief Dr DA Henderson (USA); WHO Asst DG Dr Ivan Ladnyi (USSR)

BOTTOM (l to r): WHO SEP unit Medical Officer Dr Joel G Breman (USA); former SEP unit chief Dr DA Henderson (USA); WHO Asst DG Dr Ivan D Ladnyi (USSR)

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Dr Isao Arita (Japan), SEP unit Medical Officer 1965-1976; Chief Medical Officer 1977-1985

Dr DA Henderson, SEP unit Chief Medical Officer 1966-1976





KENYA - OCT 1979
PROLLOMATION

- LONDBECK, KALISA RUTI, JEZEK, YEMANI, FENNER, DAN
- ARITA, DAN, LADNYI
- BREMEN, DAN, LADNYI



OCTOBER 26, 1979

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

President Carter today welcomed the official eradication of smallpox throughout the world, announced by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Nairobi today.

Over more than a decade, the WHO brought together in a sustained battle against smallpox a group of experts, health workers, political officials from countries throughout the many regions where the disease was endemic. The leader of that WHO effort was Dr. Donald A. Henderson, who was then an officer of the U.S. Public Health Service working with the WHO. Henderson and his successors at the Center for Disease Control were imaginative and dedicated American contributors to this world-wide success.

In addition to eradicating what was long one of the most dread diseases known to mankind, this global campaign has produced financial savings for the United States. We invested an estimated \$27 million over the many years that some 300 persons from the Public Health Service filled assignments overseas related to smallpox control, and in direct financial assistance from AID and HEW. Now routine smallpox vaccination is no longer necessary in this country and there is no risk of smallpox to American travellers abroad. The \$27 million investment is returned every three months in savings.

"I am proud of the results of the smallpox eradication program, and I cite this program as a giant step toward the goal of rational planning for good health throughout the world in the future," the President stated.

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