MALARIA ERADICATION SPECIAL ACCOUNT

1. Action Taken in 1959 by the Executive Board, Director-General and the World Health Assembly

1.1 Executive Board

The Executive Board, at its twenty-third session in January 1959, considered a report of the Director-General (document EB23/17) describing the efforts made for obtaining funds for the Malaria Eradication Special Account and the inadequacy of the voluntary contributions received so far. The Board adopted a resolution (EB23.R63) in which it expressed appreciation to those governments which had already made contributions, urged other Member Governments to make every effort to contribute, and invited foundations, industry, labour organizations, institutions and individuals to support WHO in its efforts to eradicate malaria and to that end to contribute to MESA (resolution attached).

1.2 Director-General

On 27 February the Director-General, in a circular letter addressed to all Member States and Associate Members, gave a full account of the contributions received and warned that WHO assistance to the malaria eradication programme would be in jeopardy unless substantial contributions were sent in from a larger number of countries.

The Director-General also presented to the Twelfth World Health Assembly a report on the status of the Malaria Eradication Special Account, calling attention to the fact that the resources required for the discharge of the responsibilities undertaken by WHO with respect to the eradication of malaria were still inadequate. In his report he made the following statement:

"...Such a situation warrants deep concern. Now that the malaria eradication programme is nearing its decisive phase, the continuation of the World Health Organization's assistance to eradication projects is at stake, and no further commitments involving expenditure from the Malaria Eradication Special Account are possible unless new substantial funds are made available in the very near future."
1.3 World Health Assembly

The Twelfth World Health Assembly, in the resolution which it adopted on this subject (WHA.12.15), drew attention to the decision of the Eighth World Health Assembly (WHA.8.30), that WHO should "take the initiative, provide technical advice, and encourage research and co-ordination of resources in the implementation of a programme having as its ultimate objective the world-wide eradication of malaria", and pointed out that following on the adoption of that resolution, many governments had already embarked upon eradication programmes. The Assembly expressed concern over the present position of MESA. It invited those governments which had already contributed to increase the level of their contributions, urged those which had not to make every effort to do so, and again invited foundations, industry, etc., to contribute to the Special Account. The Assembly also outlined further action to be taken by the Executive Board and the Director-General (copy of resolution attached).

2. Action by the Regional Committee and the Regional Director for South-East Asia Region

It will be recalled that in September 1958 the Regional Committee for South-East Asia, at its eleventh session, discussed the subject of contributions to the Malaria Eradication Special Account and passed a resolution (SEA/RC11/R5) in which, inter alia, it requested the Member Governments of this region to make such contributions as possible to the Special Account, to stimulate generous contributions from all possible sources (including foundations, industry, institutions and individuals), and to supplement the financial assistance from bilateral and international agencies in order that malaria eradication might be accomplished speedily and successfully.

On 5 December 1958, the Regional Director addressed letters to all the governments of the Region enclosing a copy of the above resolution. Later, on 5 June 1959, he prepared another letter to accompany a brochure prepared by Headquarters ("Malaria Eradication: A Plea for Health"), in which he described the programme of malaria eradication and the recommendations of the World Health Assembly and invited contributions. This letter and brochure, in conformity with the decision of the Regional Committee as well as with those of the World Health Assembly and Executive Board, are being sent to all possible sources (including foundations, industry, etc.).

3. Present Global Position

At the time of the Twelfth World Health Assembly, it was estimated that out of a total estimate of $1,691,000,000 needed for the completion of malaria eradication projects in all the countries of the world starting in 1959, WHO technical advisory services to these programmes would themselves cost as much as $37.5 million on a global basis.
As reported to the Assembly, the total contribution (from 1956 up to 11 May 1959) amounted to $8,615,360, which had been received or offered by 28 governments and miscellaneous sources since the establishment of the Special Account. After a deduction of the expenditure for 1957 and for that incurred or obligated for 1958, the balance was expected to be sufficient to meet the costs planned to be financed from MESA in 1959. Funds are not available to cover the operations planned in 1960 and following years.

4. Present Position in the South-East Asia Region

In the South-East Asia Region itself, it is estimated that WHO technical advisory services to the programmes of the various countries from 1959 on will cost about $7.6 million. Of this, a little over three million will be needed during the first three years (1959-61).

From the governments of this region the following contributions have so far been received or offered:

- India $31,500
- Indonesia $10,000
- Afghanistan $2,000

These contributions are the more gratefully welcomed in view of the commitments made by the Governments concerned to meet the heavy costs of the eradication programme being carried out in their own countries.

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It will be seen that there is a very wide gap between the estimates of the obligations which WHO will have with respect to government programmes and the resources which have so far been made available to meet those obligations.

The above report is being submitted to the Regional Committee for its consideration and for any action it may wish to take to constitute to the success of the plans for world-wide eradication of malaria - an objective to which WHO, under the guidance of the World Health Assembly, is so whole-heartedly dedicating itself.