INFORMATION ON THE MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME IN THE YEMEN

1. Present status of malaria control in the country

1.1 Recently estimated population of the country: nearly 5,000,000.

1.2 Number of inhabitants living in malarious regions: malaria is one of the more prevalent endemic diseases in the lowlands and in the middle heights areas.

1.3 Malaria morbidity and mortality statistics: malaria is not one of the notifiable diseases. No official statistics have been compiled as regards morbidity or mortality.

Information on malaria vectors: BUXTON in 1944 and De MEILLON in 1947 reported the existence of A. d’thali, A. gambiae and A. adenensis. BUXTON also identified A. turkhudi, A. cinereus and A. sergenti. KNIGHT showed that there were A. pretoriensis and A. pharoensis. TOFFOLON in 1944-45 stated that A. gambiae should be considered as the most important vector in the town of Taizz.

MIRUCCI is of the opinion that A. adenensis is the vector at Hodeida and A. sergenti the vector at San’a.

The American mission led by Captain MOUNT which visited Yemen two years ago, found in schoolchildren the following spleen rates:

- Taizz: 68.2% (45 out of 66)
- Hodeida: 13.5% (17 out of 126)
- San’a: 2.1% (1 out of 49)

One hundred and twenty blood smears from Taizz were examined; 36 proved to be positive for the three species of parasites. Of 100 blood smears obtained at Hodeida, two only were positive and of 69 smears obtained at San’a one only was positive.

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Information submitted to WHO, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, by Dr Vinroni from the Ministry of Public Health in March 1955.
Preventive measures of some importance were taken at Taizz only. These comprised:

(1) The construction of a canal.
(2) The changing of the means of collecting water in mosques.
(3) Mosquito control: DDT is sprayed by means of aerosols and aeroplanes; aerosols are used in hospitals, in military barracks and in schools at regular periods at Sana'a and Hodeida.
(4) Land improvement by the removal of stagnant water.
(5) Prevention by the distribution of quinine to the population at Sana'a and Hodeida.