On the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the 6th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa was held in Harare from 22 to 25 January 1985.

Forty-seven Delegates and Observers attended the Conference from twenty-two O.I.E. Member Countries, one non-Member Country and five International Organisations. The Rapporteurs for Items II and III also participated in the proceedings of the Conference. These were Mr. D. Bourzat from I.L.C.A. and Mr. B.S. Hursey from Zimbabwe.

22 January 1985

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

In his opening address, Dr. B. Gotta, President of the Regional Commission, greeted participants and in particular welcomed the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Senator Denis Norman and Dr. L. Blajan, the Director General of the O.I.E. He also welcomed Representatives of the following International Organisations: E.E.C., F.A.O., I.L.C.A., I.L.R.A.D. and O.A.U. / I.B.A.R.

Dr. Gotta expressed his thanks for the warm and spontaneous welcome given to himself and all Delegates by Zimbabwe. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Director General for his enthusiasm and commitment towards solidarity and cooperation in disease control since he had come to office. He pointed out that since the Director General had taken up office, many more meetings of the Commission had been held than was the case previously.

Dr. Gotta reminded Delegates of the severe drought which had hit the African continent. This had had a devastating effect on animal production.

The President then briefly reviewed the various items of the Agenda. He stressed the serious repercussions of trypanosomiasis and underlined the importance of the subsequent utilisation of tsetse-cleared land.

In regard to vaccine banks, Dr. Gotta stated that it was time for the Region to set up laboratories for vaccine production to help combat disease problems. Lack of
vaccines had caused difficulties in disease control.

The President of the Regional Commission emphasised that international cooperation should be tighter and links stronger in order to combat disease. The salvation of Africa depended on solidarity between countries and if the rinderpest campaign was to be successful, cooperation and solidarity was vitally important. He hoped that in future this solidarity and cooperation would be strengthened further.

Dr. L. Blajan, Director General of the O.I.E., expressed the gratitude of the Organisation to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for hosting this 6th Conference of the Regional Commission and for the warm hospitality offered to participants. He congratulated and thanked Dr. J. Thomson and members of the Organising Committee for the efficient arrangements they had made to ensure the success of the Conference.

The Director General paid special tribute to the Minister of Agriculture in regard to the results obtained in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe, and in particular progress achieved in the veterinary field.

The Director General reviewed the Conference Agenda. He specially thanked Mr. B. S. Hursey, author of the comprehensive report on Item III and expressed the importance of tsetse control. He noted that in part due to the arguments portraying expected benefits to be derived from control, outside assistance had contributed most significantly to this field for many years.

Dr. Blajan, while expressing reserve in regard to the value of certain "figures", regretted that such data had not been sufficiently used in the presentation of the document supporting the Pan-African Rinderpest Eradication Campaign. The Director General continued by reviewing the difficulties encountered in November 1984 which prevented the signature of the funding convention in December 1984.

In referring to Item II, problems related to the development of the small ruminants sector in Africa, Dr. Blajan congratulated Dr. E. Landais, author of the report on this Item, who had offered a very comprehensive review of the economic, sociological and technical aspects of this sector. The Director General also thanked Mr. D. Bourzat who had kindly accepted to present the report.

In regard to Item IV, Dr. Blajan emphasised the importance in the future of cooperation between countries in Africa to be fully informed of the possibilities offered by African laboratories which manufacture vaccines.

The Director General closed his address by wishing the success of the Conference.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Senator Denis Norman, warmly welcomed participants of the 6th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa to Zimbabwe. This was an important milestone as it was the first such conference to take place in Southern Africa.

Senator Norman praised the O.I.E. for being the first Organisation in the world to have centralised disease reporting and also for convening regular meetings of Heads of Veterinary Services to formulate international policies on disease control. He went on to point out the marked growth of the O.I.E. in Africa since its inception in 1924 when there were only three African countries represented. The expansion has been rapid over the last fifteen years, there now being one hundred and six Members of which forty are from Africa.
The Minister stressed the importance of the O.I.E. in formulating policy to control diseases, which of course did not recognise national boundaries. Many of these diseases, he said, could only be controlled by mutual cooperation between nations.

Senator Norman was pleased to see that the Agenda included discussions on rinderpest control and praised the efforts that O.I.E. were making to coordinate and implement the control programme. Rinderpest was almost eradicated in the 1970's, but unfortunately the disease now affects twenty-eight African countries and is of great concern to the continent, including the countries of Southern Africa who view the situation with alarm.

It was pleasing to see the inclusion of tsetse control on the Agenda, as this pest was also a major impediment to livestock development. He pointed out that over 10 million sq km of Africa are infested with the fly.

Senator Norman hoped that the good cooperation between veterinarians of various countries would continue and that the Veterinary Services on this continent would improve. He pointed out that where there was an efficient Veterinary Service in a country, one tended not to appreciate its value and even to forget the potential danger of major diseases since these were controlled. It is only when Veterinary Services break down that one sees how very quickly animal diseases can devastate livestock and also pose a great danger to human health.

Senator Norman revealed that in Zimbabwe from 1977 to 1980 when the arms struggle disrupted Veterinary Services, over one third of the cattle had died from disease in the communal sector. Human life was also affected, as anthrax, a rare disease before 1979, became epidemic with 4,000 human cases in 1979 and 7,000 in 1980. Rabies also increased to alarming figures. Fortunately these diseases and others had now been brought under control due to an effective Veterinary Service.

This clearly showed that there is no substitute for adequate and efficient veterinary control in the field. Africa should not rely on foreign personnel, but attempt to improve its own veterinary infrastructure. Senator Norman felt that the problems faced in controlling disease on the continent were not insurmountable provided good cooperation existed.

The Honourable Minister concluded by wishing the Conference every success in its deliberations and declared officially open the 6th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa.

Election of the Chairman and appointment of the Rapporteurs.

Participants elected Dr. Thomson as Chairman of the Conference. Dr. S.K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe) was appointed to draft the Final Report.

Adoption of the provisional Agenda and Programme.

The provisional Agenda and Programme were then adopted.

**Item I : ACTION TAKEN BY THE O.I.E. FOR THE RINDERPEST CAMPAIGN**

Dr. Thomson called upon Dr. Gotta to conduct the debate on this Item.
Dr. Gotta said that since 1981 there had been numerous meetings during which rinderpest had been discussed.

Dr. P.D. Fall, responsible for the Coordination Unit set up in Nairobi at the O.A.U./I.B.A.R. Headquarters, noted the activities of this Unit which included Dr. B. Halpin (United Kingdom) and Dr. Y. Cheneau (France). He stressed that the regional coordinators of the Campaign were appointed by the O.A.U. for West, Central and East Africa. He indicated that the O.A.U. Summit Meeting in Addis Ababa in November 1984 had approved the strategy and organisation proposals and thanked the E.E.C., F.A.O. and O.I.E. for their financial and technical assistance. Furthermore, the O.A.U. Summit Meeting requested the Secretary General of the O.A.U. to ensure that everything possible was done to launch the Project within the time limits set. Regrettably, the E.E.C./O.A.U. funding convention had not been signed as scheduled at the beginning of December 1984 due to last-minute difficulties.

Dr. Y. Cheneau, seconded by France to the O.I.E. and O.A.U., briefly reported on action taken by the O.I.E. since 1984 to implement the rinderpest campaign, as follows:

(a) promotion of the Pan-African Campaign: Recommendation endorsed by the International Committee of the O.I.E. (23 May 1984); participation at the Thirteenth F.A.O. Regional Conference (Harare, 16-20 July 1984); Seminar on basic animal health structures (Bujumbura, 24-26 October 1984);

(b) seeking funds: meeting to inform donor agencies (Rome, 5 June 1984); visits to E.E.C. Headquarters in Brussels to transmit financial data for funding proposals (30 October 1984), to inform the Cabinet of the E.E.C. Development Commissioner (22-23 November 1984); participation in joint E.E.C./World Bank meeting (26-27 November 1984); visit to Overseas Development Administration (London, 29 November 1984); drafting of new proposals for the E.E.C.; contact with O.I.E. Delegates in Africa (28 November 1984);

(c) organisation of the Pan-African Campaign: meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Campaign (Nairobi, 14-15 June 1984; Harare, 21 January 1985); preparation and presentation of international tenders for equipment and vaccines (Brussels, 12 July, 27 September, 12 October 1984); participation in Seminar of the Directorate General of Animal Husbandry of Mali (Bamako, 2-7 July 1984); preparation of the scenario and film on the proposed campaign taken by the Merck Company;

(d) technical preparation of project: consultation with experts in rinderpest diagnosis and production and quality control of vaccines (Rome, 15-19 October 1984); rinderpest vaccine norms; participation in the review of scientific articles or manuals for field workers.

Dr. Y. Ozawa, Representative of the F.A.O., said that his Organisation had contributed to the assessment of requirements for each of the twenty-eight countries involved. He reminded participants of aid given by the F.A.O. to African countries for emergency campaigns against rinderpest and described activities which the F.A.O. intends to conduct against the disease during the course of 1985. He also mentioned that Canada, Italy, Japan and Saudi Arabia had shown interest in funding the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

Mr. E. Wirsing, Representative of the E.E.C., wished to finalise the campaign
rapidly to avoid any further spread of the disease. He expressed his conviction that the objective of eradication would be more likely attained once the reorganisation of Veterinary Services was completed. He stated that financial assistance from the E.E.C. would be ensured. A meeting of the Preparatory Committee (O.A.U., E.E.C., F.A.O. and O.I.E.) was to be held in February in Brussels, at which time complementary measures would be drafted and later discussed with the Governments of the countries concerned. Dialogue with Governments would then commence through Delegates of the Commission of European Communities in each of the States; this dialogue could be concluded by June 1985 through agreements committing Governments to the Campaign. The decision to finance the Project would then be taken in summer or autumn. As the budget which was initially estimated for the Pan-African Campaign had increased considerably, a rise from 80 to 190 million ECU’s, the E.E.C. hoped that the World Bank would co-finance the Project. The E.E.C. Delegate reaffirmed the support of the Commission to the Pan-African Project, the success of which, he considered, would be ensured to a greater degree if Governments committed themselves to the complementary measures, even if this meant delaying the launching of the Campaign for one year.

Dr. Gotta, speaking on behalf of the twenty-eight countries concerned, expressed great disappointment at the new delay in regard to the funding of the Campaign. He described the many difficulties which resulted from such a decision and reiterated that measures had already been taken by most countries to implement the project.

Dr. Blajan reminded participants of the reasons for the failure of JP 15, the objective of which, he stated, had not been the eradication of rinderpest but rather to control the disease which was more of a socio-political scourge than an economic one. Dr. Blajan pleaded for the immediate launching of the Campaign, which if carried out would simultaneously strengthen Veterinary Services and gain the support of livestock owners. If the Project had been launched immediately, as requested by the O.I.E. Committee in 1981, the 1982-1983 outbreaks would not have occurred and the budget of the Pan-African Campaign would not need to have been increased.

Delegates of countries expressed their viewpoints: they described measures taken in their countries to render Veterinary Services more operational. They reported on contributions which are requested of livestock owners and considered that the complementary measures required by the E.E.C. should not be a pre-requisite. Emphasis was placed on the difficulties which would arise rapidly in some countries due to the fact that no national budgetary provision had been anticipated as the Campaign was due to commence in December 1984. A number of speakers expressed great disappointment, some their scepticism and frustration. However, the active assistance of the E.E.C. in many countries was much appreciated, particularly by the Central African Republic, Chad and Niger. The recent control project in Tanzania had stopped the advance of the disease towards Southern Africa.

The Representative of the F.A.O. stressed that the situation had improved since 1983 and thought that the new delay would offer more time to devote to the preparation of the Project.

The Representative of the E.E.C. took the floor once again to reaffirm his commitment to avoid a renewal of the situation which ensued after JP 15. For this, a thorough study of veterinary structures should be conducted in each of the countries. However, the E.E.C. remained prepared to intervene immediately should
rinderpest outbreaks recur before the launching of the Pan-African Campaign.

The Director General read a message from the President of the International Committee of the O.I.E. who wished the Conference every success in the proceedings and stated that the O.I.E. would continue to support the urgent need to strengthen Veterinary Services of the African continent and particularly the fight against rinderpest which was of great international significance.

Following discussion on this Item, the Conference requested Mali and Tanzania to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 1 on the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

**Item II : PROBLEMS LINKED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL RUMINANTS SECTOR**

Dr. Thomson briefly introduced the Rapporteur for Item II, Mr. D. Bourzat and called on him to present his report.

Mr. Bourzat commenced by recording that fifteen countries and one International Organisation presented reports on Item II as follows: Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe and I.L.C.A.

After recalling the importance of small ruminants for the economies of African countries and their remarkable production potential in the various tropical environments, Mr. Bourzat stated the reasons for which small ruminants presented a major interest in the process of intensifying livestock production, as follows:

(a) importance of livestock (0.7 head per inhabitant);

(b) the physiological peculiarities (specific metabolism of water, feeding behaviour, intake capacity);

(c) the rapidity and intensity of reproductive cycles (after 150 days of gestation, a goat gives birth to a litter representing 12% of the mother's weight, and 17% for triplet litters; for a cow the yield is only 6% after 290 days);

(d) the high metabolic intensity;

(e) the social role this sector plays because it involves many more livestock owners than the cattle sector;

(f) the high yield which can be expected from a genetic improvement policy (four to six times more than cattle).

For a small ruminants production intensification policy to be successful, a number of constraints should be pointed out:

(a) greater knowledge of populations of small ruminants and of their dynamics;

(b) greater knowledge and understanding of pathology, in particular respiratory diseases;

(c) stricter control of breeding and selection (controlled mating, grouping of lambings, choice of males);
(d) a particular effort in the feeding pattern (adequate diet for ewes and lambs with mineral and vitamin supplements).

Mr. Bourzat considered that this new drive for research and development would not lead to success in intensifying animal production which was essential to African countries unless a combined approach was made by research workers, development experts, livestock owners and veterinarians.

The Conference appointed Mr. Bourzat to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 2 on the development of the small ruminants sector.

23 January 1985

**Item III: TSETSE CONTROL**

Dr. Thomson briefly introduced the Rapporteur for Item III, Mr. B.S. Hursey and called on him to present his report.

Mr. Hursey recorded that thirteen countries and one Research Institute had presented reports on Item III as follows: Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the C.R.T.A.

Mr. Hursey stated that some twenty-three species of tsetse fly occupy over 10 million km\(^2\) in thirty-seven African States resulting in a major constraint on livestock production and placing 35 million people at risk to sleeping sickness.

Despite the expenditure of large sums of money on tsetse and trypanosomiasis research and control projects over the last few years, very little has been achieved in combating the problem.

Mr. Hursey briefly described the tsetse situation and the practices being adopted to exercise control in the countries from which reports were received.

The Rapporteur listed the various techniques currently available for the control of the vector and the disease, and commented on their application and effectiveness. Chemotherapy of domestic stock is regarded as a temporary measure only and has the disadvantage that only very few trypanosomicidal drugs are available and poor administration results in the development of immunity by the parasite.

Mr. Hursey recorded that the phenomenon of trypanotolerance shown by wild herbivores and some breeds of West African cattle requires further investigation and holds some promise as a future solution. The use of bush clearing of tsetse habitat and the destruction of wild host animals are considered to have only limited application and are not suitable for large-scale tsetse control.

The sterile male release technique has several disadvantages when considered for tsetse control. The laboratory rearing of flies and dissemination of pupae sterilised by radio-activity is considered to be too uneconomic and technologically demanding for practical use. The alternative, involving the capture, chemo-sterilisation and release of wild flies by automatic trapping devices would be a more practical alternative and may warrant further investigation.

Traps and screens for control and eradication are being used on an increasing
scale, particularly in West Africa and the results are promising. The addition of attractive odours to the trapping devices increases their efficiency several-fold. The identification and isolation of tsetse attractive odours is being carried out in Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom and if perfected would greatly enhance the efficiency of this method.

Insecticidal control is the only proven method available for large-scale use at the present time. Various methods of application were noted and of these, selective residual ground spraying and the aerosol aerial technique were more fully assessed.

Mr. Hursey emphasised the necessity for more sensitive tsetse population surveying techniques and in this regard odour baited traps and mobile electrocuting devices, if perfected, showed the most potential.

DISCUSSION

Brief summaries were given by Niger and Nigeria on tsetse control in their countries. Extensive areas had been cleared of the fly by various spraying techniques.

Dr. M.E. Abdel-Razig, Representative of the F.A.O., briefed the Conference on the activities of his Organisation in the implementation of the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and related development collaboration with the I.L.C.A., I.L.R.A.D. and W.H.O. The coordinating role of the F.A.O. was emphasised. The recent strategy adjustment following review of the present status of the Programme was highlighted. The following priority areas were identified: onchocerciasis control programme area, Kagera River Basin, S.A.D.C.C. and East African Programme. The criteria for selection of the areas was based on where there are integrated large-scale control and development programmes. The efforts of the F.A.O. to rehabilitate pastoralists in the Sahel who had been forced south into tsetse-infested zones due to drought were also mentioned.

Dr. Gotta brought to the attention of the Conference the fact that many countries, although committed to tsetse control, had never submitted disease or progress reports. He deplored this, as country reports offer the valuable possibility of exchanging experience.

The Rapporteur stated that a greater degree of insecticide pollution would occur when aerial spraying was undertaken by helicopter as usually this technique involved the application of larger doses in order to obtain a residual effect. In aerosol applications the dosage rates used are very much reduced. The Conference stressed the need to use insecticides with care, due to their effects on the environment.

The Conference agreed that where control operations had not been carried out, domestic stock can only be maintained by the use of chemotherapy. The wish was expressed for research into the development of more effective products.

The Representative of I.L.R.A.D. described research which had been conducted into the development of a vaccine. No vaccine had been developed yet but it was hoped that this research would soon offer new possibilities. Significant variations in the infection rate and percentage of transmission had been recorded between different *Glossina* spp. Research involving clones and serodemes is currently in progress.

The Rapporteur stated that in Zimbabwe the following costs were obtained: targets / traps and ground spraying: Z$158/sq km; aerial spraying: Z$360/sq km.
Participants discussed the advantages and disadvantages of trypanotolerant animals and the role they could have in the future. Work in this field was being carried out by the I.L.C.A., I.L.R.A.D. and also the F.A.O. This work confirmed that productivity of these animals can be increased.

Dr. J. Mulder stated that the E.E.C. was constantly involved in projects in which funds were made available for the procurement of trypanosomicidal drugs. The E.E.C. also gave support to the I.L.R.A.D., I.L.C.A. and projects concerning trypanotolerance, sterilisation techniques, chemical control, traps and targets. A large regional project involving Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique was under discussion.

The Conference agreed that international cooperation was needed for the fight against the fly and considered that this cooperation should be strengthened, thereby offering wider knowledge on the losses caused by trypanosomiasis.

The Chairman concluded that more sustained efforts should be directed towards tsetse control using all available methods. With better techniques now available, the fly could be eradicated in the long term.

Following discussion on this Item, participants appointed Mr. B.S. Hursey and the Delegate of the Central African Republic to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 3 on Tsetse Control.

**Item IV : VACCINE BANKS**

Dr. Y. Cheneau was asked to present the report on this Item. He recorded the results of the survey conducted by the O.I.E. The survey was not complete since only twenty-three of the thirty-eight countries consulted had replied to the questionnaire sent by the O.I.E. Of these, three were sent from countries which do not have a vaccine-producing laboratory. The table summarising the data concerning thirty-one vaccines, antigens and allergens is summarised below.

These laboratories can be grouped according to their specialisation, production capacity and the range of vaccines they produce:

(a) A single vaccine:
- Botswana: currently one of two laboratories in Africa which manufacture FMD vaccine; will shortly be producing rinderpest vaccine.
- Kenya (Vaccine Production Laboratory): produces FMD vaccines only.
- Lesotho: Newcastle (La Sota).

(b) Two to five vaccines: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Kenya (Muguga), Mali, Morocco, Zaire, Zambia.

(c) Six to ten vaccines: Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Niger, Somalia, Sudan.

(d) Eleven to fifteen vaccines: Angola, Kenya (Kabete), Mozambique, Nigeria.

(e) Over sixteen vaccines: Senegal.

(b) One laboratory manufactures both human and veterinary vaccines: Pasteur
Institute in Algeria.

(c) One laboratory is commencing production: Cameroon.

(d) Production capacities are very diverse: some laboratories have export capacity while others need to import.

The following vaccines are produced in Africa by a single laboratory:

- Lumpy skin disease: Kenya (Kabete)
- Rift Valley fever: Kenya (Kabete)
- Bluetongue: Kenya (Kabete)
- Contagious ecthyma: Kenya (Kabete)
- Turkey pox: Kenya (Kabete)
- Classical swine fever: Madagascar
- Porcine pasteurellosis: Madagascar
- Teschen disease: Madagascar
- Botulism: Senegal
- Salmonellosis of calves: Angola
- Caprine pleuropneumonia: Somalia

The following vaccines are currently manufactured by several laboratories:

- Blackleg: 14 laboratories
- Anthrax: 13 laboratories
- Rinderpest: 11 laboratories
- CBPP: 11 laboratories
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia: 10 laboratories
- Newcastle disease: 9 laboratories
- Rabies: 6 laboratories
- Sheep pox: 6 laboratories

The major difficulties encountered by many laboratories in Africa were the unavailability of foreign currency, lack or absence of revolving funds necessary for the operation of laboratories. Some laboratories suffered water or electricity supply problems. Other difficulties were also experienced in the inadequate training of staff.

A number of laboratories had made immense efforts to acquire equipment in recent years and some had pursued their aim to increase or diversify production capacity and even to improve quality controls. In concluding, Dr. Cheneau stated that a clear improvement had been recorded in many countries which have become self-sufficient in veterinary vaccines. He hoped that inter-African cooperation would assist in resolving the difficulties encountered by some countries.

**DISCUSSION**

The Director General of the O.I.E. opened discussion and asked Dr. Mulder if the E.E.C. would be prepared to assist in equipping laboratories.

The Conference was divided on the issue of whether or not:

(a) regional laboratories should be made available, hence avoiding in particular
transport problems within the continent;

(b) each country should be equipped with a manufacturing laboratory.

Views were expressed implying that emergency stocks should be kept readily available in regional laboratories; other suggestions were that threatened countries should stock emergency supplies of vaccine.

Regional laboratories would be in a better position to meet the needs of most sub-regions in Africa as the production of freeze-dried vaccines was costly and necessitated heavy equipment. Furthermore, the economic implications of stocking vaccine would be difficult to cope with for individual laboratories, the clients of which sometimes neglected punctual payment, hence weakening the financial position of the laboratory.

Participants agreed that it would not be feasible to provide emergency stocks for all vaccines but considered it advisable to establish vaccine banks for FMD and rinderpest.

The Conference approved the proposal to convene a meeting of Directors of vaccine-producing laboratories.

Dr. Mulder expressed the positive attitude of the E.E.C. towards the need for laboratory equipment and for funding of emergency stocks of rinderpest vaccine. The same attitude was held in regard to the survey which appeared a necessity in order to determine both the most suitable location and specialisation of laboratories. He emphasised the need for commercial management of laboratories which should eventually become self-financing.

In conclusion of this Item, it appeared that the notion of vaccine banks which prevails in Europe and North America was undoubtedly inapplicable in Africa, due to the economic implications of stocking vaccine. It was recognised that excellent cooperation between African countries was a necessity and that countries should draft reports and complete questionnaires and submit these to the O.I.E. in order that requirements may be ascertained before any plans are drawn up.

The Conference designated Dr. Cheneau to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 4 on Vaccine Banks.

FMD REFERENCE CENTRES

On the proposal of the Delegate of Botswana, Member of the O.I.E. FMD Commission, the Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Commission which proposed the designation of the Botswana Vaccine Institute as the Regional Reference Centre for FMD. The functions of the Institute were the typing of FMDV, supply of reagents, collection of epidemiological data on FMD in the region and the despatch of regular reports to the O.I.E.

Participants elected the Delegate of Botswana to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 5 on Foot and Mouth Disease Reference Centres.

Item V : ZOO-SANITARY SITUATION IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

Dr. Gotta chaired this session. Reports had been received from eighteen
Member Countries as follows: Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Gotta recalled that membership to the O.I.E. implied the commitment of Member Countries to submit reports in due time. It was difficult to give an overview of the disease status with incomplete information. Regrettably, only five countries of those involved in the rinderpest campaign sent a contribution before the commencement of the Conference.

LIST A DISEASES

**Foot and mouth disease (FMD).**

FMD type A, was mentioned in the report of Ethiopia. In Zambia, where the last outbreak was reported in 1982, FMD vaccination in the South and West Provinces north of the Zambezi, covered 5.49% of the national population. In Zaire, the disease was enzootic in the East of the country where imported cattle in particular were affected. The disease was enzootic in the Western areas of the Central African Republic and had also recently occurred in the East.

Viruses SAT 1 and SAT 2 were responsible for outbreaks which occurred regularly in Mozambique in the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Zambezia. The last SAT 2 outbreak was recorded in 1983 and was controlled rapidly by vaccinating with bivalent SAT 1 and SAT 2 vaccine and applying other control measures.

An outbreak of FMD SAT 3 was reported in Zimbabwe in August 1984 and was rapidly and efficiently controlled. As part of routine preventive measures, one million doses of vaccine were administered and 220 km of game fences and 2,000 km of cattle fences were built.

Outbreaks of types O and A were recorded in Tanzania which at that time had a breakdown in A vaccine stocks. Burundi had vaccinated to avoid the introduction of FMD through imported cattle.

**Rinderpest.**

The disease was enzootic in Ethiopia where approximately 1.4 million animals were vaccinated between May and August 1984. The disease was suspected in Niger in a herd along the border with Burkina in the North-West of the country and was rapidly eliminated through vaccination along tracks followed by the suspected herd. The last outbreak in Ghana dated back to 1974. However, one isolated case was recorded in 1983 following the importation of trade cattle. Zaire had developed a project for an emergency vaccination campaign to protect the country from the disease which was present in some of her neighbouring countries. Zambia also vaccinated herds, covering 68.2% in the Northern Province and was contemplating vaccination of the national herd.


The dates of the last reported cases of rinderpest were given by the following countries as follows:

- Central African Republic: ................................. 1983
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP).

CBPP was mentioned by Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria and Zaire. In Zambia, where the last case was reported in 1978, vaccination in the buffer zone covered 1.55% of the entire national cattle herd. In Ghana the increased incidence of CBPP was the cause for much concern as fourteen outbreaks were reported in 1983 involving 8,305 cattle. In 1984 CBPP recurred in the Western areas of the Central African Republic where the disease had been eradicated since 1975-76.

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR).

The incidence of PPR had decreased in Senegal.

Lumpy skin disease.

The disease was mentioned in reports presented by Ethiopia, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. In Mozambique where the disease had not been reported in its epizootic form since 1983, incidence was moderate and vaccination was conducted in zones at risk. Tanzania reported that the disease had seriously affected dairy animals in the Northern region of the country. No outbreak had been reported by Ghana since September 1980, at which time the disease occurred in the Volta region.

Bluetongue.

Bluetongue was reported in Mozambique alone, clinical signs were not observed in sheep but serological diagnosis had been positive in cattle.

Rift Valley fever (RVF).

RVF was present in all East African countries and also occurred sporadically in Zambia.

Sheep pox.

The disease was reported by Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal and Somalia.

African horse sickness (AHS).

AHS recurred in Senegal in 1983. Zimbabwe reported six deaths in 1984; 10,500 doses of vaccine were administered.

African swine fever (ASF).

ASF caused a high rate of mortality in West and South-West Zaire which did not
have adequate means to diagnose the disease. ASF was enzootic in the Angonia District in Mozambique; sporadic cases were reported in the Sofala Province. Burundi reported cases in 1983 and 1984. Outbreaks were also reported by Malawi and Uganda.

**Newcastle disease.**

The disease was mentioned in the reports of the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania. In Mozambique the disease was widely spread, with six of the ten provinces reporting cases in 1984. Incidence was also high in Ghana.

**LIST B DISEASES**

**Anthrax.**

The disease was present in all countries and spread extensively in the Ivory Coast between 1982 and 1983 due to a lack of vaccine coverage. Vaccination was reinforced in 1983. In 1984 no outbreak was observed in Mozambique where combined anthrax and blackleg vaccination had been compulsory for the past thirty years. In Algeria where vaccination around outbreaks was compulsory and free of charge, the incidence of the disease had declined considerably since 1980; the same was observed with blackleg. In Tanzania an outbreak occurred in the Manyara National Park and 1,000 impala, elephant and other game died; 1.8 million doses of vaccine were administered. In Zimbabwe the situation improved and 3.2 million vaccinations were carried out. The situation in Ghana was well under control through vaccination: 22 outbreaks were recorded in 1983 involving 166 cattle of which 101 died.

**Heartwater.**

The disease was enzootic in Zambia. In Mozambique incidence ranged from 60 to 75%. Heartwater was often reported by the Central African Republic in areas without dipping facilities.

**Leptospirosis.**

The disease occurred sporadically in some regions in Kenya where serovars *L. hardjo* and *L. grippotyphosa* were isolated.

**Rabies.**

The disease was of concern to Algeria, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, Zaire and Zimbabwe. Rabies was endemic in Mozambique where a control programme provided for vaccination of 70% of dogs and cats. Rabies was becoming a serious problem in many countries and incidence was increasing in the Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Malawi and Mozambique. In Zimbabwe 352,000 dogs were vaccinated in 1984. Several countries were affected by vaccine shortages.

**Anaplasmosis.**

The disease was reported by most countries. In Ethiopia and in Zambia occurrence of anaplasmosis was enzootic and the incidence rate in Mozambique was
between 25 and 30%.

Babesiosis.

The disease received mention in the reports of the Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Zambia. According to a recent survey, the incidence in Mozambique was reported to be between 60 and 70%.

Bovine brucellosis.

The disease was mentioned in the reports of Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. The disease had spread throughout Zambia where vaccination covered 11,361 cattle (0.0056% of the national cattle herd). A survey conducted in Ghana in 1970 revealed that 23% of cows were infected. Incidence of bovine brucellosis was moderate in Mozambique where a compulsory vaccination programme, associated with testing, had been set up for dairy cattle. The Central African Republic also reported bovine brucellosis and stated that a B19 vaccination campaign, financed by the E.D.F. in 1979 had been interrupted.

Bovine tuberculosis.

The disease was mentioned in reports from Algeria, Ethiopia and Zaire. In Mozambique the disease was present in many areas of the country where a test and slaughter programme was conducted. The disease did not appear to be of concern in Ghana. In the Central African Republic the disease was responsible for 15 to 20% of meat condemned in abattoirs.

Dermatophilosis.

The disease was reported by Ethiopia and Ghana.

Haemorrhagic septicaemia.

The disease was recorded in Niger, Senegal and Zambia and sporadic occurrence was reported by the Central African Republic.

Theileriasis.

Theileriasis received mention in the reports of Uganda and Zambia. In Mozambique, *T. parva* serological reactions were recorded in the Gaza and Maputo Provinces. *T. parva* (East Coast fever) posed a serious problem in Malawi. Cases were reported by Tanzania.

Trypanosomiasis.

Mr. B. Hursey had examined the status of trypanosomiasis in his comprehensive report on this item.

Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, epizootic lymphangitis and avian typhoid.

These diseases were mentioned in the report by Ethiopia.
OTHER DISEASES

Tetanus.

The disease was sporadic in Algeria where all horses belonging to the State were vaccinated systematically.

Enterotoxaemias.

These diseases posed an important problem in sheep in the steppes of Algeria.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The following activities were recorded in the field of international cooperation:

(a) Algeria:
- The Directorate of Veterinary Services informs neighbouring countries of the zoo-sanitary situation.
- Veterinary conventions were proposed in 1984 for signature between trading partner countries in Africa, Europe and the Americas;
- The third Meeting of veterinarians in the Maghreb countries is to be held in Algiers in March 1985.

(b) Ivory Coast:

(c) Ethiopia:
- Technical and material aid from France for the development of the National Veterinary Institute.
- Technical aid from the USSR for epidemiological work.
- Technical aid from Cuba for the development of field and laboratory services.
- Material aid from the F.A.O. principally for the control of rinderpest outbreaks.
- Aid from the World Bank for the development of livestock in the South and East of the country.

(d) Kenya:
- A convention is due to be signed with Somalia for the implementation of a regional project for tsetse control.
- The Department of Veterinary Research in Muguga was identified as a Regional Laboratory for the production of rinderpest and CBPP vaccines.

(e) Mozambique:
- Assistance to the Field and Laboratory Department of the National Veterinary Institute (Aid Programme from Scandinavian countries).
- Rehabilitation of Veterinary Assistance to small stock-owners and to cooperatives by I.F.A.D.
- Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Project financed by the U.N.D.P.
- FMD Control Project: loan from the African Development Bank.
- Regular exchanges of zoo-sanitary information with neighbouring countries.
(f) Niger:
In addition to relations with world, regional and sub-regional Organisations, Niger had signed bilateral agreements with Nigeria, Mali, Burkina, Benin, Chad and Cameroon. An animal health agreement with Algeria was currently under consideration.

(g) Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia:
The E.E.C. had funded a large regional Foot and Mouth Disease Project at a cost of 12 million ECU's.

The Director General mentioned the proposed worldwide rabies vaccination campaign which would be conducted under the aegis of the W.H.O. and financed by a non-governmental Organisation. The Conference recognised the advantages this project would present and decided that a recommendation should be submitted to the International Committee suggesting O.I.E. support to this campaign. Dr. Gotta was requested to prepare Proposed Recommendation No. 6 on Rabies Control.

The Conference recognised the need for animal disease information and hoped that the O.I.E. would organise seminars in Africa as soon as possible. Dr. K.O. Gyening was appointed to draft Proposed Recommendation No. 7 on Animal Health Information Systems in Africa.

Participants concluded that cooperation within the continent was satisfactory and that the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign had helped in unifying the African countries.

Item VI : MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 5th CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION (Nairobi, January 1983)*

Dr. Gotta chaired this session and recorded that prior to the Conference six countries had sent reports on this Item and had implemented the three Nairobi Recommendations, namely: Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Zaire, and Zambia.

DISCUSSION

Recommendation No. 1 : Reinforcement of Veterinary Services at national and international levels for the control of epizootic diseases.

This Recommendation had been implemented by the following countries: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Participants had strived in every case to strengthen their Veterinary Services. Achievements had been very satisfactory and the Conference agreed that this good work must continue.


This Recommendation had been implemented by the following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria and Uganda. S.A.D.C.C. countries supported the Recommendation particularly with regard to prevention of the spread of rinderpest to Southern Africa.

Participant countries had improved their laboratory and vaccine procurement capabilities in readiness for the implementation of the campaign.

Recommendation No. 3: Importance of Poultry Development.

This Recommendation had been implemented by the following countries: Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Many countries reported that they were self-sufficient in poultry products. These countries recognised that the poultry industry had benefited from the importation of improved exotic hybrids.

In summarising discussion on Item VI, the Chairman, Dr. Thomson, stated that he was exceedingly encouraged by the improvement of the Veterinary Services within the continent and added that without efficient animal production, agriculture would collapse. He hoped that the Representative of the E.E.C., Dr. Mulder, was similarly encouraged.

Dr. Mulder stated that he had taken careful note of the reports and he would be communicating this to the Commission of European Communities in Brussels.

24 January 1985

FIELD STUDY TOUR

The field visit offered very interesting information to participants. After visiting the Pig Industry Board’s experimental farm, Delegates were taken to a dip tank in a communal area where they witnessed dipping in operation.

Delegates then proceeded to a rural veterinary outpost. The tour continued to the Veterinary Training Institute at Mazowe where in-service training of lay personnel takes place. The tour was concluded by a visit to a commercial dairy farm.

During the tour, Delegates observed the various types of agriculture which are practised in Zimbabwe and saw the development and achievements which have been made.

25 January 1985

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

After lengthy debate by Delegates, all seven Proposed Recommendations were adopted following amendment. These are given in Appendix 2 to this Report as follows:
I. Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

II. Development of the small ruminants sector.

III. Tsetse control.

IV. Vaccine banks.

V. Foot and Mouth Disease Reference Centres.

VI. Rabies control.

VII. Animal health information systems in Africa.

**Item VII : FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE O.I.E.**

The **Director General** recalled that the O.I.E. was the International Organisation of Veterinary Services which should assist such Services in accomplishing their tasks to the best interests of the international community.

Dr. Blajan said that a pre-requisite for efficiency of Veterinary Services was the presence of a good animal health information system; Veterinary Services should have available adequate health regulations for international trade in animals and animal products and have access to results of research and studies on animal pathology.

These conditions corresponded to the three major functions assigned to the O.I.E. by the Organic Statutes in regard to information, standardisation of regulations and coordination of research.

However, while the responsibilities of Veterinary Services had been extended, the activities of the O.I.E. had not developed in the same manner. This had given rise to a study on the future activities of the O.I.E. requested of the Director General by the International Committee.

This study was conducted by analysing replies to a questionnaire sent to Member Countries and was then prepared in report form by an *ad hoc* group formed by a representative of each of the O.I.E. Regional Commissions and the Director General.

The report indicated that the majority of Member Countries welcomed the enlargement of O.I.E. activities but expressed reserve in regard to possibilities of increasing the resources of the Organisation and suggested that a careful approach must be adopted in developing O.I.E. activities, namely, that a thorough feasibility study should be conducted over a two-year period.

The report proposed that by 1 January 1986 the following should be established:

(a) a unit formed by one veterinarian and one secretary to further standardisation work: this could be financed by the O.I.E.;

(b) a unit formed by one veterinarian and one assistant to conduct a feasibility study on information and research.

As the O.I.E. budget would not be able to fund the latter unit, it would be necessary to seek extra-budgetary funds, through voluntary contributions.

**DISCUSSION**

As the draft report presented by the Director General was not yet a final document and had not been examined by Delegates, there was no discussion on this issue. The position of the Regional Commission would be given during the next
meeting in May 1985.

**Item VIII : PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Participants agreed that due to limited time available at the meeting of the Regional Commission for Africa during the General Session, the Agenda should be limited to a few topics. Delegates proposed the following Agenda:

*(a) Future activities: possibilities of O.I.E. funding.
(b) Progress of the proposed Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.
(c) Election of the new Bureau of the Commission.*

The President of the Commission indicated that proposals were also required of the Regional Commission for Africa for the Agenda of the 54th General Session in 1986.

Delegates proposed the following topics for consideration:

*(a) organisation of Veterinary Services;
(b) non-infectious diseases of livestock (nutritional factors);
(c) diseases affecting milk production.*

**Item IX : OTHER BUSINESS**

The Delegate of Nigeria asked to be informed of the follow-up given to the decision of the Committee during the 52nd General Session concerning countries in arrears in the payment of contributions. The President of the Commission and the Director General stated that the necessary contacts had been made with the countries in question. A report on the results of these contacts would be presented to the Committee at the next General Session.

The Conference requested that lists of experts in the various diseases be made available to Veterinary Services. The Director General stated that a number of experts had been appointed by the Committee for some of the List A diseases. He gave his agreement in principle to this request, stating that additions would be made to the list published in the O.I.E. monthly Bulletin.

The Conference retained the suggestion of the Delegate of Zambia that CBPP should not be forgotten during the rinderpest campaign and where the need arose, both vaccines should be administered.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL REPORT**

After brief debate, the Conference adopted the Final Report. Delegates and participants were given the opportunity to submit in writing any amendments that they considered necessary within a month following the Conference.

A Motion of Thanks to the Government of Zimbabwe was passed (see p. 199).
CLOSING CEREMONY

The Director General briefly concluded on the proceedings of this 6th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for the warm welcome offered to participants. He also thanked and congratulated Dr. Thomson and his colleagues on the excellent organisation of the Conference. Dr. Blajan complimented the Rapporteurs on the quality of their comprehensive reports and paid special thanks to Dr. Hargreaves for his work as Rapporteur of the Final Report and to participants for their contribution to discussion. Thanks were also expressed to the Conference Secretariat and to the Interpreters.

Dr. Thomson, Chairman of the Conference, also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all who had contributed to the success of the Conference. Dr. Thomson stressed his appreciation of the valuable contribution of the O.I.E. Secretariat to the preparation of the Conference documents and Final Report.

The President of the Commission concurred with the Director General in his conclusions of the Conference and expressed his gratitude to the Host Country, in particular to the Veterinary Services of Zimbabwe, and to participants. He thanked the E.E.C. and other Organisations for their assistance in the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. He hoped that the launching of the Campaign would take place as soon as possible. Dr. Gotta considered that this 6th O.I.E. Conference had confirmed African solidarity and said that this alone was a great step forward to what promised to be a most optimistic future for the African Continent.

Dr. Thomson declared the 6th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa officially closed at 6.30 p.m.

*  
*  
*
Appendix 1

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

C.R.T.A. : Centre de Recherches sur les Trypanosomoses Animales. (Centre for Research on Animal Trypanosomiasis.)
E.D.F. : European Development Fund.
E.E.C. : European Economic Community.
JP 15 : Joint Project against Rinderpest in Africa.
O.I.E. : Office International des Epizooties. (International Office of Epizootics.)

*  *

*  *  *

Appendix 2

RECOMMENDATIONS *

I
PAN-AFRICAN RINDERPEST CAMPAIGN

Concerned by the threat of rinderpest which continues to weigh on the economies of African countries;

Concerned that the aim of eradicating rinderpest should not be compromised through implementation of inadequate follow-up measures by Veterinary Services;

Aware of efforts made by the O.I.E., O.A.U. and F.A.O. to seek sufficient funds;

Convinced of the continuing willingness of the E.E.C. to participate in the Pan-African Campaign;

Taking into account the preparatory measures implemented by the countries involved,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends that

1. Governments of African countries further reinforce their Veterinary Services and provide them with means which are in reasonable proportion to the potential of the livestock sector and current contribution to the national wealth so as to ensure efficient control of rinderpest and, in future, master the development of animal health problems.

2. Governments of African countries systematically integrate animal health and production programmes in the drafting and implementation of livestock development policies.

3. The Director General of the O.I.E. pursue his efforts towards the implementation of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

4. The Preparatory Committee of the Campaign (O.A.U., E.E.C., F.A.O., O.I.E.) put forward further proposals taking into account the possibilities likely to open dialogue with Governments with a view to facilitating the installation of all elements allowing for the rapid launching of the Pan-African Campaign in accordance with the strategy which has been discussed previously and which was recently adopted by the Conference of heads of State of the O.A.U. in Addis Ababa in November 1984.

II
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMALL RUMINANTS SECTOR

Considering

the recommendations of the 4th Conference of the O.I.E. Regional Commission

for Africa held in Rabat in 1980;
the dramatic decline in natural pastures;
the main changes occurring in traditional animal production systems;
the production potential of African breeds of small ruminants,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends that

1. When livestock projects concerning small ruminants are presented, special attention should be paid to the collection of statistics.

2. Projects involving intensification of production should only be formulated after consultation between research workers, development experts, livestock owners and veterinarians.

3. Research into pathology, nutritional and management aspects be encouraged.

4. Genetic improvement be considered as an advanced step towards the process of intensification.

III

TSETSE CONTROL

Considering

the widespread tsetse infestation experienced throughout tropical Africa and the subsequent major constraint placed on agricultural development and human settlement;

that it is recognised that several techniques have shown potential for alleviating the trypanosomiasis problem by control of the vector;

that it is also appreciated that these techniques cannot always be implemented because of various restraining factors such as limitation of funds, lack of the necessary basic infrastructure and the shortage of experienced personnel;

that advances in recent years in the development and use of traps and targets, particularly the identification of tsetse attractive odours, have indicated their promise of providing improved survey and control methods, but they have yet to be tested on a large scale and have not been assessed as to their effectiveness for all tsetse species of economic importance,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends that

1. Large-scale international control measures be implemented and, where necessary, land use plans be implemented and the search be intensified for new and more effective drugs to combat trypanosomiasis. In those countries where chemotherapy constitutes the major method of control, funding agencies and local Governments must ensure that sufficient supplies are available in order to obviate the risk of immunity developing in the parasite and thereby that regular treatment programmes can be guaranteed.
2. Investigations to elucidate the mechanism of trypanotolerance demonstrated by certain breeds of domestic stock should be continued and the more widespread introduction of trypanotolerant cattle in certain areas be considered, particularly in those of low to medium tsetse density.

3. If the sterile insect release technique is to be pursued the feasibility of using the capture-sterilisation and release of wild tsetse should be considered in addition to the laboratory rearing and sterilisation of large numbers of pupae.

4. Investigations into the development and use of traps, screens and electrocutting devices for both survey and control operations should be continued and assessed for use in varying conditions and for all tsetse species of economic importance. Greater effort should also be concentrated on the identification of odours attractive to tsetse flies as these have been shown to greatly enhance the effectiveness of trapping devices.

5. Integrated field and laboratory studies should be undertaken in order to gain a better understanding of aerial spraying and in particular the behaviour of insecticide droplets under varying meteorological conditions. These investigations should result in the defining of the limits of application of the technique.

6. Where chemical control is used on a large scale, the resulting contamination of the environment should be closely monitored.

7. Whenever large-scale control operations are undertaken, techniques must be integrated to best advantage and campaigns should be ongoing up to the local limits of tsetse infestation wherever this is possible. For optimum results, large-scale and long-term eradication projects, which do not recognise state boundaries, must be given serious consideration.

8. Training programmes must be instituted with the objective of producing practically-minded and control-orientated professional staff to ensure the successful implementation of large-scale operations.

IV
VACCINE BANKS

Having heard the report on Vaccine Banks in Africa;

Recognising the interest in completing this preliminary study,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends that

1. The Director General of the O.I.E. seek funds for a feasibility study on the establishment of:

   (a) vaccine banks at vaccine-producing laboratories; or
   (b) the storage of vaccines in threatened countries.

2. The Director General of the O.I.E. examine which vaccine types should be stocked on either a regional or sub-regional level in Africa, to cope with emergency situations.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE REFERENCE CENTRES

Considering that

the control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) with a view to eradication in some areas of Africa is of great importance for international trade in livestock and animal products;

the rapid identification and documentation of the different FMD virus types are essential for the control and eradication of the disease in the region,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Supports the recommendation of the O.I.E. FMD Commission which proposes the designation of the Botswana Vaccine Institute as a Reference Centre for Foot and Mouth Disease, and recommends that this designation be endorsed by the International Committee during the 53rd General Session.

VI

RABIES CONTROL

Having examined the zoo-sanitary situation on the African continent;

Recognising the increased incidence of rabies in many countries;

On account of the serious consequences of this disease for public health,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends

That the International Committee of the O.I.E., during the next General Session, consider the possibility of promoting vaccination campaigns against rabies in Africa, which would complement other rabies control measures.

VII

ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

Recognising that

epidemiological data are of great importance in funding disease control programmes and for international trade of animals and animal products;

disease surveillance and reporting systems are deficient in most African countries,

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa

Recommends

That the O.I.E. International Committee be asked to adopt a training
programme for the different sub-regions of Africa, as soon as possible, covering all aspects of information collection, recording, processing, utilisation and dissemination.

* *

* * *

MOTION OF THANKS

The O.I.E. Regional Commission for Africa, the Director General of the O.I.E., members of Delegations, Observers and Representatives of countries and International Organisations wish to express their gratitude to the Right Honourable President and to the Government Authorities of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Host Country of the 6th Conference of the Regional Commission, for the excellent welcome offered to them and for all facilities made available to them during their stay in Harare, during this 6th Conference of the Commission convened in Harare from 22 to 25 January 1985.