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MALARIA PROGRAMME

Proposal from the Representative from the United States of America

The United States Delegation is deeply impressed by the challenge which the present world malaria situation presents to the World Health Organization. At the same time it feels that the WHO has an opportunity to make a great contribution toward world health, economic stability, and peace in an attack upon this disease. Each year hundreds of millions of persons suffer from this debilitating disease. This in itself makes malaria the prime world health problem. Today its importance is greatly magnified by the fact that malaria strikes hardest in agricultural areas. The direct suffering caused by malaria is multiplied by the hunger and malnutrition resulting from lowered food production in malarious areas. Malaria is a direct and important contributing cause of the current world food shortage. This situation is being allowed to continue in the face of new discoveries of major importance in the field of malaria control. Dramatic control even to the point of eradication of malaria has been accomplished in small scattered areas. The United States Delegation believes that the WHO should direct a major share of its energy and resources during its first years to the application of such measures to larger areas with particular attention to the major food producing areas afflicted by malaria. The United States Delegation would appreciate receiving a statement of the opinion of the Expert Committee on Malaria in regard to various aspects of such an attack. It recommends that the Interim Commission address specific questions to its Expert Committee on Malaria with a request that that Committee consider these questions separately and in consultation with the Fourth International Congress on Malaria and that the Expert Committee be requested to prepare a report on these matters for the information of the World Health Assembly. The United States Delegation suggests that the following specific questions be addressed to the Expert Committee:

- 1) Can recently introduced insecticides be relied upon as the basis for a wide-spread attack on malaria with expectation of a significant reduction of morbidity in areas where they are properly used?
- 2) Are these insecticides available in sufficient quantity for a wide-spread attack; if not, what steps might be taken to assure their increased production?
- 3) What are the preferred insecticides and how might they best be employed on a mass basis?
- 4) In what areas of the world is mass attack most needed from the standpoint of incidence of malaria?

The United States Delegation suggests that at the time the Interim Commission seek the opinion of FAO regarding the relative importance of agricultural areas in malarious regions with particular reference to those in which productivity is reduced by lack of manpower