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DE LA SANTÉ  
COMMISSION INTÉRIMAIRE

WHO.IC/Mal./2  
21 March 1947.

NUCLEAR COMMITTEE ON MALARIA

NOTE ON THE PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF A SUM OF \$15,000

EARMARKED: FIELD WORK DURING 1947 MALARIA SEASON

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

The Epidemiology and Quarantine Committee of the Interim Commission in its first report (WHO.IC/QE/1, 13 November 1946) agreed unanimously:

"That the problem of malaria was sufficiently urgent and important to warrant immediate action. It was therefore decided to appoint a sub-committee of five experts to study and advise on this important problem. It was felt that this Sub-Committee should meet just before the next Session of the Interim Commission and prepare a note for consideration by the Committee. It was anticipated that subsequently it would be necessary for this Sub-Committee to continue certain investigations and submit a report in due course."

This Sub-Committee, henceforward called the Nuclear Committee on Malaria, has already been formed. Four members, all very widely known experts on malaria, have already been appointed by the Chairman of the Interim Commission jointly with the Executive Secretary. (Professor M. Ciuca, Brigadier N. Hamilton Fairley, Dr. A. Gabaldón and Dr. Paul F. Russell). The fifth member has not been appointed, for no nomination has yet been brought forward by the U.S.S.R. representative on the Interim Commission.

Although the Nuclear Malaria Committee, according to the above quoted suggestions of the Epidemiology and Quarantine Committee, should have been convened before the Third Session of the Interim Commission, such an early meeting has been found impossible, and the Nuclear Malaria Committee will meet in Geneva on April 21st. In the meantime the Secretariat has approached the four members already appointed, and, on the basis of conversations with Brigadier Hamilton Fairley, Dr. Gabaldón and Dr. Russell, a draft agenda has been prepared (WHO.IC/Mal/1).

Item I of the Agenda, paragraph C, calls for a programme of co-ordinated and strictly controlled experiments with the new anti-malarials, to be carried out in several countries on the Committee's suggestion.

These new anti-malarials, such as Paludrine and Chloroquine, which promise to be much more efficient than any other anti-malarial drug so far known; and which, by weekly or bi-weekly dosage only, promise to give a suppressive prophylactic action greater than that of Mepacrine, have only been studied up to the present time in a small number of countries and on particular groups of subjects, infected, naturally or artificially, with particular strains of parasites. Very likely, many public health administrations of malarial countries would appreciate, before Paludrine and Chloroquine become largely available to them, to have more general data as regards the use of these drugs in treatment, and especially in suppressive prophylaxis in the field. To this end, the Nuclear Malaria Committee in its first meeting will probably set up a programme of co-ordinated and controlled experiments with such drugs in different malarious countries where the epidemicological conditions, and particularly the strains of the parasites, the bionomics of the mosquito vector, and the social and economic conditions of the populations differ. It is envisaged that the experiments most likely to be recommended by the Nuclear Malaria Committee will deal with suppressive prophylaxis; that they will last a year at least; that the high supervision of the experiments should be entrusted to one of the country's leading authorities on malaria; and that the experiments should be carried out by malaricologists assisted by visiting nurses - possibly public health nurses.

It is likely that the countries where such experiments could be carried out will be chosen from among the following:

France (Algeria)  
Italy  
Portugal  
Yugoslavia.

Moreover, it is also likely that some experiments already planned by several institutes in Greece, Malaya and Rumania might be brought into line with the programme that the Nuclear Malaria Committee might establish. In the conditions prevailing at present in many of these countries, it will be necessary to give some financial assistance for the carrying out of such experiments. This assistance can consist of offering to pay the salary of a malaricologist and of two or more visiting nurses, according to the needs of the particular countries, for a year. The necessary amounts of Paludrine will be supplied free of cost by the producers, and it is expected that the producers of Chloroquine will also offer it free for this purpose.

As regards the 1947 Budget, the sum of \$15,000, earmarked for field work during the 1947 malaria season, should suffice to provide the financial assistance enabling these experiments to be carried out in Algeria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and, possibly, Portugal. In the meantime, the Secretariat has approached the relevant authorities with a view to collecting information as to the possibilities of carrying out the above experiments in their own countries. It is regretted, however,

that the Secretariat is not yet in a position to state:

1. whether the Nuclear Malaria Committee will definitely recommend the carrying out of such experiments, and
2. if the experiments are decided upon, in which country they will finally take place.

As already stated, the Nuclear Malaria Committee could not be convened before the Third Session of the Interim Commission: the latter is therefore asked to approve the proposed appropriation, entrusting the Chairman and the Executive Secretary to authorize its expenditure on the basis of the future recommendations of the Nuclear Malaria Committee. Obviously, the question cannot be referred to the Fourth Session of the Interim Commission, for the experiments envisaged should begin, at the latest, in June, 1947, in order not to miss the opportunity offered by the next malaria season to study in the field some problems which are of urgent interest to the public health administration of malarial countries.