

WORLD HEALTH
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DE LA SANTÉ

Interim Commission

Commission Intérimaire

WHO.IC/Mal./21

Restricted

26 April 1948.

EXPERT COMMITTEE ON MALARIASecond Session

Washington, D.C., 19-25 May 1948.

✓ DRAFT OF A SANITARY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AGAINST IMPORTATION OF ANOPHELES IN AN ISLAND (SARDINIA) FROM WHICH ANOPHELES HAVE BEEN ERADICATED OR ARE IN PROCESS OF ERADICATION.

1. The Italian Government had requested the Executive Secretary of the WHO.IC to place on the Agenda of the Session of the Expert Committee on International Epidemic Control, 12-17 April 1948, the study of a Draft International Agreement aiming at preventing importation of anophelines into Sardinia, from which these mosquitoes are now being eradicated.
2. The Expert Committee on International Epidemic Control examined the first Draft Agreement (WHO.IC/Epid.3) and reported as follows:

"The Committee's attention was drawn to the official request made by the Italian Government (WHO.IC/Epid./3) for including in the International sanitary legislation provisions against the importation of anopheline mosquitoes into Sardinia - an Island in which the eradication of insect malaria vectors was nearing completion.

The Committee noted the importance of this very extensive and thorough eradication experiment made by the Italian Authorities in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation. Having regard to the technical character of the problem, particularly in respect of the disinsectization of seacraft, the Committee decided to refer the whole matter to the Expert Committee on Malaria with a request that that Committee should, in view of the urgency of the problem, communicate its views and recommendations direct to the First World Health Assembly.

The Committee wished to place on record that the provisions for the disinsectization of aircraft contained in Article 54 of the 1933/44 International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation have proved their efficacy and that, therefore, no additional provisions in this respect would seem necessary".

The Committee decided to consider at later sessions any observations and recommendations made by the Expert Committee on Malaria concerning measures for the protection of Sardinia and other islands from which malaria has been eradicated.

3. A second Draft (WHO.IC/Mal./22 Restricted) was sent to the Secretariat by the Italian High Commissariat of Hygiene and Public Health, but it arrived too late to be submitted to the Expert Committee on International Epidemic Control.
4. Article 54 of the International Sanitary Conventions for Aerial Navigation 1933 as amended by the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation 1944 reads as follows:

"In applying sanitary measures to an aircraft coming from an infected local area, the sanitary authority of each aerodrome shall, to the greatest possible extent, take into account all measures which have already been applied to the aircraft, in another sanitary aerodrome abroad or in the same country, and which are duly noted in the Aircraft Declaration of Health referred to in Article 9 of the present Convention.

Aircraft coming from an infected "local area" which have already been subjected to satisfactory sanitary measures shall not be subjected to these measures a second time on arrival at another aerodrome, whether the latter belongs to the same country or not, provided that no subsequent incident has occurred which calls for the application of the sanitary measures in question and that the aircraft has not called at an infected aerodrome except to take in fuel.

In view of the special risk of conveying insect vectors of malaria and other diseases by aircraft on international flight, all such aircraft leaving affected areas will be disinsected. Notwithstanding the terms of Article 54 of the 1933 Convention as hereby amended, further disinsectization of the aircraft on or before arrival may be required if there is reason to suspect the importation of insect vectors".

5. As regards International Standards for the disinsectization of aircraft, the Expert Committee on International Epidemic Control reported as follows:

"During the course of its deliberations, the Committee on a number of occasions realized the urgent need for international standards for the disinsectization (destruction of mosquitoes and of other insect pests) of aircraft and was of opinion that some form of internationally recognized certificate will be required.

The Committee urged therefore that the studies on this question recommended by the Expert Committee on Quarantine be pursued without delay, if necessary with recourse to expert help and advice".