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IS IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY  
DDT RESIDUAL SPRAYING PROGRAMMES? (greece)

A D D E N D U M 2.

Upon the request of the Secretary of the Expert Committee on Malaria, Professor G. LIVADAS has been kind enough to supply the following information which brings the data relating to the subject of his paper up to date.

The abolition of periodic sprayings and the application of a minor programme of residual spraying under epidemiological control, was continued in Greece during this year (1953). On the other hand, no anti-larval programme was carried out on the Island of Crete during the year, either in the urban areas or in the major swamps (airspraying).

The number of villages sprayed preventively and repressively in Greece by August 19, 1953, are as follows:-

<u>Villages sprayed preventively</u> <sup>o</sup>	<u>Villages sprayed repressively</u> <sup>o</sup>
Crete .....	0
Peloponnese .....	0
Remaining country .....	<u>10</u>
430	10

Preventive spraying is done in villages where a number of positive cases occurred during the previous epidemic or the pre-epidemic period and, at times, in neighbouring villages where anopheline density suggests this measure.

Positive cases found by service and private laboratories from January 1 to August 19, 1953, are as follows:-

<sup>o</sup> These figures are provisional.

	Positive cases Service laboratories <sup>o</sup>					Positive cases Private laboratories <sup>o</sup>				
	V	F	M	MXD	Total	V	F	M	Undef.	Total
Crete	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Peloponnese	41	1	-	1	43	-	-	-	-	0
Remaining country	252	13	3	-	268	20	9	4	4	37
Total	294	14	3	1	312	21	9	4	4	38

Thus, during the above stated period, a total of 350 positive cases were detected throughout the country, of which 315 vivax, 23 falciparum, 7 malariae, 1 mixed and 4 undefined. Out of the above, 301 were detected during the period June 1 to August 19, 1953. In Crete, the two positive cases, which were the first detected after three years of suspension of the residual spraying programme, were both vivax. Of the 43 positive cases found in Peloponnese, 37 were from the Prefecture of Elia, and of the total of 350 detected positive cases, 300 were in 10 prefectures, 44 in 18 prefectures and 6 involved soldiers returning from Korea. No positive case was observed in the remaining 25 prefectures during this year. It should be noted that during the pre-DDT period malaria incidence, though varying in degree, was widespread in all prefectures.

Up to this moment, although we are now at the peak of the malaria season, and in the third year of suspension of the extended periodic spray programme in Crete and Peloponnese and in the second year in the remaining country, there has been no outbreak of malaria, and the disease seems to be under control. It should however be noted that the number of detected positive cases from June on is higher than that during the corresponding period of last year. This is partly due to the improvement of detection methods, but possibly to other factors as well; while, of course, the fact should not be ignored that there are still about two more months left in the epidemic season.

At any rate, the sum total of our observations in Greece corroborates the opinion that, after an extended application of residual spraying programmes over a number of years, it is possible to consider the suspension of such programmes, provided epidemiological data show that the malaria transmission cycle has been interrupted, that

<sup>o</sup> These figures are provisional.

sources of infection are becoming very rare and sporadic, and that the effort of eradicating the insect vectors has no chances of success. However, in such a case, it is essential that the areas involved be placed under careful and constant supervision. The immediate treatment of detected positive cases and the spraying of houses in the areas where such cases are found, as well as in the neighbouring settlements, seems to provide sufficient guarantee for the continuation of the balance obtained for a certain period of time.

As already stated, the advantages arising from the abolition or suspension of periodic sprayings are important. Aside from the considerable economy effected, there is the possibility of preventing the development of resistant strains of anopheline vectors, such as was observed recently in certain areas of the country.

Specifically, the case of the Island of Crete is most significant. The carrying on of periodic sprayings in 856 villages of that island during the past three years' period would be tantamount to waste of effort, equipment and funds.