

Health Director

September 28, 1973

Chief, Division of Sanitation

Aedes aegypti Resume

1. The following outlined provides background information on the status of Aedes aegypti, the urban yellow fever vector in the Zone and on the Isthmus:

A. 1905 An outbreak of yellow fever occurred on the Isthmus in 1905. The last yellow fever case in the Zone was reported in December 1905. A final case was reported from Colon in June 1906. The mosquito control activities initiated by Col. William Crawford Gorgas, Chief Sanitary Officer, Department of Sanitation, Isthmian Canal Commission, thereafter, has prevented the introduction of any cases in the Zone.

B. 1948 Due to 5 cases of yellow fever at Pacora, east of Tocumen airport, in the Republic in December 1948, an extensive eradication campaign to eliminate Aedes aegypti throughout the Zone, Panama City, Colon and urban areas of the Republic in 1948-50, was organized and completed by Zone health officials. All breeding sites in and around houses, the favorite places of the mosquito, were removed or eliminated. Additional screening was initiated. Residual spray of 5% DDT was applied.

C. 1969 A reinfestation of Aedes aegypti was found in March 1969, in Colon where slum areas at Folks River and the old fisherman's wharf provided excellent sites for the mosquito. The source was contributed to water containers of small boats which travel between the Republic and the Caribbean ports where the mosquito is as yet uncontrolled. Action by USARSO Environmental Health Division personnel with Division of Sanitation insecticide provided initial control with the Republic's Ministry of Health completing final eradication.

D. 1972 A survey of ten selected townsites, five on Atlantic side and five on Pacific side, by two Pan American Health Officials with ten Division mosquito hunters, proved Aedes aegypti was negative in selected Canal Zone townsites, April-May 1972. RAHO is responsible for surveillance and eradication in the America's.

E. 1972 The mosquito was found in Pueblo Nuevo, a section of Panama City, in October, 1972. Reportedly, the infestation was from used tires imported from the United States through Miami and Las Minas Bay ports. The Division provided insecticides and loan of equipment for use of SNEM personnel active in this program.

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F. 1973 Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, which maintains surveillance of jungle yellow fever in the Republic, advised that the virus was in the Darien Province of the country a re-entry from Colombia, January 1973. Other mosquitoes in the jungle canopy are involved.

G. 1973 Field supervisors of the Republic in SNEEM, an autonomous agency for malaria eradication and mosquito control, visited the Zone to ask for a resurvey of Zone townsites, including military reservations, February 1973. A reinspection did not materialize, reference Memo for Record attached.

H. 1973 Several flower pots in a Panama City cemetery, next to the Zone boundary and across from Quarry Heights military reservation, was reported by PAHO inspectors in the Republic to have *Aedes aegypti*, September 24, 1973. The Republic's field supervisor, with two PAHO inspectors, requested a survey of the areas involved within the Zone which included inside houses. A review of the areas involved was made on September 25th and 26th with three representatives from the Republic including USARSO Environmental Health Division personnel on the second day. Again, as recorded in the attached memo for record, the reasons were given why *Aedes aegypti* will not be in the Zone. The inspection of the inside of the Quarry Heights houses was not considered appropriate in view of military standards. The men from the Republic were advised accordingly.

2. The Division of Sanitation inspectors with larvae hunters from the Ancon office will resurvey the boundary area with the exception of Quarry Heights and Curundu which is the responsibility of the USARSO Environmental Health Division. Our resurvey will include the policing of small containers which may have been left by children or promiscuous disposal by transients. A Division inspector will contact each resident to explain this activity as well as to advise on possible water containers inside the houses.

3. The situation in the Republic will continue to be status quo, that is, jungle yellow fever will continue to be reported from the jungle areas of the Republic; waves of the virus have gone west in 1950, 1957, 1965 and this year although no farther than the Bayano River area, reportedly. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the urban yellow fever vector, will be reported occasionally from the Republic in small numbers. The mosquito does not appear to be a threat to public health when it is not abundant and the lack of a reservoir. Also, immunizations for yellow fever have been provided by health clinics in the Zone as well as by the Ministry of Health to residents, workers and visitors to the Darien Province.

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4. Coordination with Ministry of Health and Pan American Health Organization officials is required to provide a mutual policy.

J. P. MacLaren

Enclosure

June 1974 Balboa

1975 David & Vera Cruz

1976 La Chorrera

1977 Golán

1983 - June 17, 1974 Puntó

May 1955 - San Francisco, Panama City

21 January 1956 - Mariela, Panama

5 January 1956 - Rio Abajo, Panama City