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BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

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HEALTH ASPECTS OF POPULATION DYNAMICS

Report by the Regional Director

1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Committee, during its nineteenth session, adopted a resolution on the health aspects of population dynamics (WP/RC19.R8) and requested the Regional Director:

- "(a) to expand further the regional office activities in this field and to promote the integration of these activities into general basic health services programmes when requested by governments;
- (b) to report to the twentieth session of the Regional Committee on WHO's further activities and plans to assist in this field in the Region."

2. ACTION TAKEN

- 2.1 Two assistant directors, three regional advisers and two field staff members have participated in training courses on health aspects of human reproduction organized by WHO Headquarters.
- 2.2 A regional adviser and three field staff members (a health educator, a public health nurse and two public health administrators)

/obtained advance ...

obtained advanced training in their specialties in 1968 and 1969. The health aspects of family planning were included in the courses they took.

2.3 The Regional Office will be the host for a four-week inter-regional training course on the health aspects of human reproduction, which will be held in October 1969. There will be nineteen participants from the Western Pacific and South East-Asia Regions.

2.4 An inter-country course on the health aspects of population dynamics will be organized by the Regional Office early in 1970 in Manila.

2.5 In the Republic of Korea the WHO-assisted maternal and child health project aims at the strengthening of maternal and child health services, including family planning, as a part of the general health services, at national, intermediate and local levels. Another important aspect is the strengthening of the maternal and child health and family planning component of existing and future training courses for medical officers, nurses, midwives and auxiliary staff. A new category of multi-purpose staff is being prepared for their duties in maternal and child health and family planning and for specific duties in communicable diseases control by the WHO-assisted education and training project.

2.6 A plan of operation for a maternal and child health services and family planning project in Singapore was signed by the Government, UNICEF and WHO at the end of 1968. WHO is providing technical advice. UNICEF will provide material assistance, including equipment for maternal and child health centres, vehicles and health education material in the field of maternal and child health and family planning, and equipment for the family planning evaluation centre.

2.7 In the framework of the UNICEF and WHO-assisted maternal and child health project in China (Taiwan), UNICEF is providing supplies and equipment for maternal and child health/family planning activities while WHO gives technical advice.

/2.8 A request for ...

2.8 A request for a fellowship in the health aspects of family planning for a nurse has been received from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands. This is included in the programme and budget estimates for 1971.

2.9 Western Samoa has requested assistance through the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the South Pacific, in connexion with a study of the feasibility of a family planning programme fully integrated with the maternal and child health functions of the health services. WHO will participate in a United Nations mission to Western Samoa by assigning a public health administrator to carry out this study.

2.10 WHO will also participate in a United Nations/UNESCO family planning mission to Malaysia. A medical officer with a background in obstetrics and gynecology and specialized in the education and training of staff will advise on the training of staff in family planning and a health educator will assist in the health education aspects.

3. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

3.1 The preparation of WHO staff in the latest developments in the health aspects of family planning will be continued. This training programme will include medical officers, nurses, health educators and other staff.

3.2 Assistance in the development of basic health services will be continued and intensified, with particular emphasis on the training of national staff. Upon the request of governments, advisory services will continue to be provided on the health aspects of family planning and its integration into the general health services.

3.3 Subject to the availability of funds, fellowships, seminars, training courses and other group educational activities in the health aspects of family planning will be arranged.