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Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

May I again express my deepest appreciation for your kindness in agreeing to open the exhibit of postage stamps issued in support of the work of the World Health Organization.

Your presence and your most interesting statement contributed much to the importance of this occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Rodolphe L. Coigney, M.D.
Director, Liaison Office with United Nations

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General
United Nations
6 April 1962

Dr. Rodolphe L. Coigney, Director of the World Health Organization's Liaison Office with United Nations, has the honour to invite you to the opening of an exhibit of postage stamps issued in support of the work of the WHO on Wednesday, 11 April, at 11:00 o'clock in the morning in the public lobby of the General Assembly Building of the United Nations.

The Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations has kindly agreed to open the exhibit which coincides with the launching of a global philatelic campaign through which nearly 100 governments and postal administrations show their support for the greatest single public health enterprise in the history of mankind - the eradication of malaria.

The exhibit will include a photographic display on WHO's malaria eradication work, a collection of historical philatelic material on WHO, as well as numerous postage stamps already issued on the theme, "The World United Against Malaria".

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am sending you herewith a copy of the invitation which this office is sending out to the Permanent Delegations, the D. R. correspondents and a number of philatelic enthusiasts.

I am also enclosing some background material which you may find useful in planning your remarks.

I wish to thank you again for your kindness in accepting to open the exhibit. Yours sincerely,
A philatelic exhibit on the World Health Organization's malaria eradication campaign will be opened Wednesday, 11 April, at 11:00 a.m. by the Acting Secretary-General, U Thant, in the public lobby of the General Assembly Building.

The exhibit coincides with the launching of a global philatelic campaign through which nearly 100 governments and postal administrations show their support for the greatest single public health enterprise in the history of mankind -- malaria eradication. Postage stamps already issued and donated to the World Health Organization will be shown. Another part of the exhibit will be devoted to historical philatelic material connected with the World Health Organization since its establishment in 1948.

Among the countries and territories which have so far decided to issue malaria eradication postage stamps with the slogan, "The World United Against Malaria", about 50 have also agreed to donate to the Organization quantities of 10,000 to 100,000 postage stamps as well as related philatelic material (souvenir sheets, stamp cards, first day and other covers, etc.). Similar donations are foreseen from other countries while some governments have decided to give WHO a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their anti-malaria stamps and related philatelic material.

Philatelic material donated to WHO will be distributed by the Philatelic Agency for Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps Ltd., 225 West 34th Street, New York 1, N.Y., agent of the World Health Organization.

Following is a list of participants in the world philatelic campaign for malaria eradication as at 30 March 1962:

The United Nations
Afghanistan
Albania
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cambodia
Cameroun
Central African Republic

(more)
Ceylon
 Chad
 China
 Colombia
 Congo (Brazzaville)
 Congo (Leopoldville)
 Cyprus
 Czechoslovakia
 Dahomey
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 Ethiopia
 France
 Gabon
 Ghana
 Guinea
 Haiti
 Holy See
 India
 Indonesia
 Iran
 Iraq
 Israel
 Italy
 Ivory Coast
 Jordan
 Korea
 Kuwait
 Laos
 Lebanon
 Liberia
 Libya
 Liechtenstein
 Malagasy Republic
 Malaya
 Maldives Islands
 Mali
 Mauritania
 Monaco
 Morocco
 Nepal
 Nicaragua
 Niger
 Nigeria
 Pakistan
 Panama
 Panama Canal Zone
 Papua and New Guinea
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Portugal (8 overseas provinces will issue one postage stamp each)
 Ryukyu Islands
 San Marino
 Saudi Arabia
 Senegal
 Sierra Leone
 Sudan
 Surinam
 Thailand
 Togo
 Tunisia
 Turkey
 United Arab Republic
 Upper Volta
 United States
 Vietnam
 Yemen
 Yugoslavia

The following countries will issue only a special cancellation die:

Burma
Canada
Denmark
French Polynesia (Tahiti)
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland
Singapore
Tanganyika

* *** *
NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

On the occasion of the issue today, 30 March 1962, of the United Nations and United States commemorative stamps on the theme, "The World United Against Malaria," the World Health Organization (WHO) wishes to call to the attention of the philatelic press, the general press, collectors and stamp dealers the arrangements that have been made in connection with this stamp campaign.

The unusual number of postal administrations which have announced their intention to participate (at present nearly 90 countries) promises to make this program an extraordinary instrument for bringing to the world's attention the urgent problem of malaria eradication, as well as to provide a singularly interesting philatelic event.

WHO has provided a number of safeguards concerning this campaign in order to maintain the highest possible standard of philatelic ethics in connection with the sale on the philatelic market of stamps.

Among the safeguards taken are the following:

(a) WHO has appealed to participating governments to assure ample printings of anti-malaria stamps and related material in view of the expected great demand. These appeals are continuing in cases where WHO feels that the quantities printed are not sufficient to assure equitable distribution for philatelic purposes.

(b) Besides an official opening for the stamp program, WHO has also set 31 December 1962 as the termination point for stamp issues to appear under the official WHO program. Those issues appearing after 31 December 1962 are not considered by WHO as a part of this campaign.

(c) The contract entered into by the World Health Organization and the Philatelic Agency for Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps, Ltd., included a number of provisions of a protective nature, one of the most important of which is quoted herewith:

DESTRUCTION OF UNSOLD STAMPS AND PRINTING PLATES:

(1) That donated stamps remaining in the hands of J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation at the date of withdrawal indicated by the participating government concerned will be destroyed and that such destruction will take place in the presence of a witness appointed by WHO;

(2) That it should be recommended to participating governments that all unsold balances of the stamps should, after the dates of withdrawal, be ordered destroyed after the printing is completed.

* *** *
The following is the text of a statement issued from the White House today on the occasion of the issue of the United States postage stamp* commemorating WHO’s anti-malaria campaign:

For centuries, malaria has out-ranked warfare as a source of human suffering. Over the past generation it has killed millions of human beings, and sapped the strength of hundreds of millions more. It continues to be a heavy drag on man’s efforts to advance his agriculture and industry.

I am proud of the part which the United States is playing in the world-wide malaria eradication campaign. We have conquered malaria in our own country. Now, through the Agency for International Development, we are devoting our technical skills and financial resources to this greater effort. We are also vigorously supporting the worldwide leadership of the World Health Organization in the elimination of malaria, which involves also essential participation by allied agencies -- the United Nations Children’s Fund and the Pan American Health Organization.

Indeed, I am heartened, not only by the progress against an ancient scourge, but also by the growing cooperation of many countries -- over 100 -- working through these agencies against a common enemy. In a world still sadly torn, the malaria eradication campaign once more shows that its peoples can work together for mutual benefit. Worldwide technical cooperation on this scale is very new in man’s history. It holds great promise for the future.

In response to the invitation of the World Health Organization, the United States and some eighty other countries this year are honoring our shared fight against malaria with commemorative postage stamps.

In my inaugural address, I said: "Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease..." These stamps reflect the significance which we and other nations attach to the objective of "A World United Against Malaria."

John F. Kennedy

* *** *

*For further information, call WHO’s New York Information Office, Ext. 2022.
The year 1961 marked the turning point in the World Health Organization's malaria eradication campaign, and the program "goes on gathering strength," the WHO Executive Board has been informed in Geneva.

A statement to this effect was made by Dr. Abdallah Omar Abu Shamma (Sudan), Chairman of the Executive Board, as its 29th session opened last week.

Dr. Abu Shamma also told the 24-member Board that the general level of health in the Congo (Leopoldville) had been maintained during the past year despite outbreaks of smallpox and a few cases of sleeping sickness.

Progress in the world malaria eradication campaign and in WHO activities carried out under UN Civilian Operations in the Congo (Leopoldville) are among the major topics for the 10-day session.

Malaria Progress Cited

A progress report presented to the Board shows that, so far, malaria has been eradicated in 39 countries with a population of 305 million; in 1961 alone, four countries with seven million persons were freed from malaria.

In addition, the report states, eradication programs are now in operation in 67 countries with a population of 767 million; and new programs began in 1961 in seven countries with 151 million persons.

Dr. Abu Shamma also told the opening session that those countries which did not yet have programs for malaria eradication would be helped by WHO to build up their operational and other facilities for the eradication campaign in the future.

Aid in Congo Outlined

A report on WHO's aid in the Congo (Leopoldville), under the United Nations Civilian Operations program, indicates that the Central Government and WHO had been working to reestablish large-scale preventive measures against communicable diseases, such as smallpox.

(more)
It shows that kwashiorkor -- a disorder caused by nutritional deficiencies --
had been brought under control in Kasai Province, where it had reached emergency
proportions, but that sporadic cases continued to occur there and in Leopoldville
Province.

WHO has 29 advisers attached to the central and provincial ministries of health
in the Congo (Leopoldville), the report states. In addition, there is an operational

group of 119 persons -- physicians, surgeons, anesthetists, pharmacists, biochemists
and technicians of various kinds. These and certain other posts are financed by
the United Nations Congo Fund.

At its 10-day session opened on 15 January, the Executive Board will also
study WHO's 1963 program and budget and prepare recommendations for the fifteenth
World Health Assembly to be held in Geneva in May.

* *** *

Note: More detailed information on the session may be seen in Room 272.
WHO EFFORTS AGAINST MALARIA TO BE HONORED
BY UN COMMEMORATIVE STAMP IN MARCH

The United Nations will issue its second commemorative stamp of 1962 on 30 March in honor of the World Health Organization and its drive to eradicate malaria, the UN Postal Administration has announced.

The theme of the new stamp will be "The World United Against Malaria." The design* shows a globe, symbolizing world unity, and the Aesculapian staff — emblem of WHO — being used to combat the malaria-bearing anopheles mosquito. WHO, a UN specialized agency with headquarters in Geneva, launched the malaria eradication campaign in 1955, and more than 70 countries are now participating.

The Director-General of WHO, Dr. M.G. Candau, recently stressed the need for international action against malaria in these terms: "Countries that are in the grip of malaria cannot by themselves meet the whole cost of the campaign. International action must accordingly help to carry the program forward smoothly and steadily. The task is enormous, almost inconceivable; yet there can be no doubt that malaria eradication is essential to mass prospering on earth."

The stamp, which will be printed by photogravure process in six colors, is in denominations of 4 cents and 11 cents. It was designed by Rashid-ud Din of Pakistan, a member of the United Nations Presentation Unit.

* *** *

*A photo of the stamp design may be seen at the UN Press Documents Counter. A review of progress in the malaria eradication campaign appeared in Press Release H/1388 of 17 November 1961.
The UN Postal Administration announced today that the United Nations will issue its second commemorative stamp of 1962 in honor of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its drive to eradicate malaria in countries of the world where it still affects adversely human existence.

The theme of the new stamp will be "The World United Against Malaria" developed by (WHO) a specialized agency of the United Nations.

More than 1,000 million human beings live under the threat of malaria. In 1955, the World Health Assembly, meeting that year in Mexico, resolved to eliminate this scourge from the face of the earth as rapidly as possible. Each afflicted country, under the overall international coordination of WHO, and often with additional international help, is massing its efforts to eradicate the disease once and for all. Seventy-six countries are joined in this campaign.

Recently, Dr. M. G. Canjau, Director-General of WHO, stressed the need for international action in these terms: "Countries that are in the grip of malaria cannot by themselves meet the whole cost of the campaign. International action must accordingly help to carry the program forward smoothly and steadily. The task is enormous, almost inconceivable, yet there can be no doubt that malaria eradication is essential to mass prospering on earth."

The stamp which will be printed by photogravure process in six colours is in denominations of 4 cents and 11 cents by Harrison and Sons, Limited, London, England.

It will measure 30 mm, horizontal X 40 mm, vertical, perforation to perforation.

The two denominations will be printed in the following quantities:

4¢ - 2,750,000
11¢ - 2,500,000

The stamp was designed by Rashid-ud Din of Pakistan, a member of the UN Presentation Unit.

Further details about the stamp and instructions regarding the purchase of first-day covers will be released approximately six weeks before the day of issue.

This stamp will be issued 30 March 1962.

************
Malaria still exerts a deadly toll. It destroys lives, saps resources and undermines health, or, if left unchecked, flaring up in violent epidemics, malaria still costs tens of thousands of lives every year, mostly among children and adolescents. Death in such numbers may continue to rage as long as malaria is not totally banished from the earth. Today over a thousand million people are still
a stranglehold on many millions around the world. It
initiative and prevents good land from being cultivated.

threatened by this disease. Malaria eradication — unanimously advocated
by the Member States of the World
Health Organization since 1955 — calls
for much money, manpower and mat-
erial. Countries that are in the grip of
malaria cannot by themselves meet the
whole cost of the campaign. Interna-
tional action must accordingly help
to carry the programme forward,
smoothly and steadily. A convincing
way of demonstrating goodwill towards
the underprivileged would be to make
a full contribution to malaria work.
The world eradication programme,
however, is not only an effort of
human solidarity; it is also a thorough-
ly practical undertaking, for it bears
within it the ferment of progress.
It frees people from apathy. It brings
new land under the plough. It pro-
duces healthy, energetic, productive
communities. It encourages the devel-
opment of new industries. It creates
new markets. There can be no doubt
that malaria eradication is essential
to man's prospering on earth.

Dr. M. G. CANDAU
Director-General of the World Health Organization

In Berry (France), the Fever Spirit of the Marshes terrifies a group of peasants at nightfall (by Maurice Sand, son of George Sand).
SLAV
OF F
for thousands of

First there is shivering; the chattering te
and a temperature of 104 or higher. Afte
that drives you almost insane, the insatiabl
and, worst of all, the hot prickly fire of
ths, convulsive fits, a skin icy to the touch
the shivering comes the burning dry heat
thirst, the booming in the head, the delirium
the skin that is like an excursion to hell
... No attack could be mounted through the lowlands. Those commanders who tried inevitably failed, for the fevers ravaged the troops in a way that the hill men with their primitive fire-arms could never hope to achieve..."

"... The island, a gem of green set in the sparkling blue of the sea, was a perfect paradise but for one snag, malaria..."

"... The next thing that happened was that two chaps in Beastly's platoon were crimed for coming down with malaria. What an army! You didn't even have the right to be sick any more..."

While malaria cannot rival tuberculosis or epilepsy as a literary disease, the reader of European novels is only too familiar with it as the factor that makes the best-laid plans—military, agricultural or amorous—go oft astray. It is said to have killed Alexander the Great and undermined the Roman Empire. Because of malaria and yellow fever, de Lesseps failed to build the Panama Canal. Its victims are counted in millions.

You read of malaria in Turgeneif, in Conrad, in Loti. Dickens gave a graphic description of the disease. Voltaire made the older English word for malaria, ague, famous when he discovered to his disgust that it had two syllables whereas plague only had one. "May plague take one half of the English dictionary and ague the other!" was his comment.

Ague, from Latin acuta, sharp, has gone out of fashion. The present-day malaria—used in English, Russian and other languages—is Italian and simply means bad air, reminding us of frock-coated diplomats at 19th century sanitary conferences solemnly attempting to decide by vote whether this or that pestilence was transmitted by foul air, miasmata, gas, exhalations, or by some minute bodies as yet unidentified. French is rather more specific with paludisme, as is Greek with elonosia, marsh or swamp disease: a stagnant expanse of water provides a good breeding place for mosquitoes and the air does not necessarily have to be "bad". But both the bad-air and the swamp notion (not so very different one from the other since the bad air was generally supposed to come from the marshes) are known to be wrong since it was discovered towards the end of the last century that malaria is a disease caused by blood parasites transmitted from man to man by the bite of the female anopheles mosquito. The key to the intermittent character of the fever was found in the periodic release of a new brood of parasites into the blood.

Wayne Mineau writes: "It is not a spectacular disease. There are no wounds or lost limbs or blindness to excite pity. Malaria comes in the night, or in the fields during the working day, and when the collapse occurs you are just confined to bed or your sleeping mat on the mud floor. The fever rages, subsides and flares up again, according to the type of infection, daily or every second or third day.

"First there is shivering; the chattering teeth, convulsive fits, sickness and vomiting, a skin icy to the touch and a temperature of 104 or higher. After the shivering comes the burning dry heat that drives you almost insane, the insatiable thirst, the booming in the head, the delirium—and worst of all, the hot prickly fire on the skin that is like an excursion to hell. Then at last the sweating, the soaked bed, the falling temperature, and a blessed period of sleep—until the next attack."

The comparative lack of spectacular symptoms (think of poliomyelitis, tra-
choma, leprosyl) has created some difficulties for historians in their search for early references to malaria. But since mosquitoes have been found embedded in resin formed during the Age of Reptiles and since today’s monkeys can contract malaria it looks as if the disease existed on earth even before man climbed down from the trees.

King of Diseases

In modern surveys to find malarious communities and measure the spread of the disease, the symptom of the enlarged spleen is frequently used as an index. An Indian author writing many centuries B.C. has described “the belly with an enlarged spleen that distends the left side, is as hard as stone and is arched like the back of a turtle”. The “belly” was typical of a disease prevailing largely in the autumn and characterized by alternating hot and cold fever returning daily or every third day. This affliction was called the “King of Diseases” and there can be no doubt that it was malaria.

Ancient China also knew the disease: Three demons were said to be responsible for headaches, chills and fevers. The first demon was equipped with a hammer, the second with a pail of cold water, the third with a stove.

According to Egyptologists, the word AAT found in temple inscriptions may mean malaria, and it has been suggested that malaria was in Moses’s mind when he wrote, “The Lord shall smite thee with a fever and with an inflammation and with an intense burning”.

We are on surer ground with Empedocles, who in the middle of the 5th century B.C. cleared up a malarial swamp near Selinus in Sicily by leading two neighbouring streams through it, and fought malaria in his native Agrigentum by having a gap made in the rock wall behind the town so that “the healthy north wind could blow the fever-bearing vapours of the plain far out to sea”. Coins were struck and a column erected in his honour.

The great Hippocrates described malaria accurately and saw clearly the connexion between swampy places and enlarged spleens. But the role of the insects apparently never crossed his mind. Columella, however, writing in the 1st century A.D. is very suggestive. His subject was site selection for country estates: “There should be no marshlands near the buildings, and no military highway adjoining; for the former throws off a baneful stench in hot weather and breeds insects armed with annoying stings which attack us in dense swarms; then too it sends forth plagues of swimming and crawling things... infected with poison by the mud and decaying filth, from which are often contracted mysterious diseases whose causes are even beyond the understanding of physicians... The highway moreover impairs an estate through the depredations of passing travellers and the constant entertainment of those who turn in for lodging.”

But although through the ages there were many hints at the part played by insects and though folk in Africa, Asia and Europe incriminated the mosquito, the truth had to wait for the bright blaze of discovery that illuminated the second half of the 19th century when scientists from many lands, including France, Italy, England, Cuba, Russia, America and Germany, contributed (with many a false start) to the unravelling of the complex life-cycle in mosquito and man of the various malaria parasites. The main credit must probably go to the Frenchman Laveran, the Italian Golgi and the Englishman Ross.

However, some centuries before these stupendous discoveries were made, cinchona bark, brought to Europe from the New World, had provided man with a highly effective weapon in his struggle against malaria—quinine.

An extravaganza

In the list of goods which the New World gave to the Old—potatoes, cocoa, rubber, tobacco, amongst others—quinine is not the least. The tree from which it was prepared was called Cinchona after a lady with a truly magnificent name, Doña Francisca Henriquez de Ribera, wife of the Viceroy of Peru Don Luis Gerónimo Fernández de Cabrera Bobadilla y Mendoza, Fourth Count of Chinchón. The lady is said to have had a houpt of malaria that was cured by a native remedy administered by her doctor. Unfortunately, the historians have chipped away at this account—though it is finely illustrated on the walls of the Santo Spirito Hospital in Rome—until little remains except the lady’s name and the fact that the “fever tree” grew in Peru. But even the lady’s name has suffered, for, since the tree is called after her, why not Chinchona instead of the actual Cinchona? An early misprint or a partial Italianization of the spelling may be the explanation.

Other mysteries surround the wonderful remedy. Did the native Peruvians know of its virtues? Did they have malaria before...
SLAVES OF FEVER

the Europeans arrived? The answer to both questions is probably yes.

Introduced into Europe about 1630 (by whom is not known), the new drug, pursuing its extravagant history, was slow to make its way. Religion got mixed in, for since the remedy was championed by the Jesuits, Protestant doctors were among those who deplored it as a Papal fraud. It has even been conjectured that Oliver Cromwell died because none of his physicians dared administer the "Popish powder" to cure his malaria.

As a secret remedy, cinchona was more successful. Robert Talbor of London, a self-styled "feverologist", made a fortune out of it and achieved a knighthood by treating patients including Charles II and the Queen of Spain.

Opposition to cinchona bark was undoubtedly caused in part by the difficulty of hitting the right dosage as well as by the fact that bark of inferior quality and even from other trees was being peddled as the genuine article. Slowly, however, it established itself as a specific remedy for a specific disease. As such, it helped to undermine old ideas about illness being caused by a disturbance of "body humours" and it opened the way towards modern chemotherapy.

There were, however, some throwbacks. In India, as late as 1804, a naval surgeon, James Johnson by name and of a conservative frame of mind, reverted to the old methods of purgation, salivation and bloodletting because he had the bad luck to lose the first fever patient he treated with cinchona. Thirty-five years went by before anybody in India dared try powdered cinchona bark again. In actual fact the drug could not only cure but also prevent malaria.

In the meantime, two French chemists had isolated the "active principle" of cinchona, quinine, and factories were quickly established in various parts of the world to produce it from the bark. Plantations of cinchona trees were being developed here and there from South American seeds. In this venture the Dutch were the most successful nation with large plantations built up in Java. At the outbreak of the second world war, that island was producing more than 20 million tons of bark a year. According to the great malarialogist, Paul F. Russell, the Dutch quinine combine had created what amounted to the most effective crop monopoly of any kind in all history.

The search for Ersatz

During the first world war, the disruption of quinine supplies had seriously affected the German war effort in Africa, and so, in the inter-war period, chemists at I.G. Farben set out to find an ersatz product. (It is interesting to note that earlier efforts in this direction by the English chemist William Perkin lead to the discovery of mauve purple, the first of the aniline dyes and the beginnings of the colossal coal-tar industry.) The Germans were successful in their search and with plasmodchin started the long list of synthetic antimalarials available today.

When in the second world war the Japanese captured Java, the roles were reversed and it was up to the Americans and their allies to produce something that would make it possible for troops to fight in malaria-infested areas without, as General MacArthur put it, there being for every division facing the enemy a second division in hospital with acute malaria and a third division in convalescent depot with relapsing malaria. The response was forthcoming.

In the midst of the war, Colonel A.F. Fischer flew from Bataan to Mindanao in the Philippines where there was a small but thriving cinchona plantation. With Father Haggerty S.J. (Jesuit's bark again!), he revived production, thereby greatly supporting the Philippine guerrilleros in their long and tenacious fight. He then left for Washington with a precious cargo of select cinchona seeds carried in a milk can. With these, plantations were successfully started in a number of tropical American countries. Cinchona had traveled east in the 17th century; now, under the pressure of 20th century war, the fever tree travelled west again!

At the same time the chemists were not idle. Over 14,000 compounds were tested for anti-malarial activity in a research programme co-ordinated by the USA. The British started a search for new compounds and came up with paludrine, the 4,888th compound tested. Many volunteers participated in the trials. Prisoners in the USA had their sentence reduced because of their self-sacrifice in submitting to malaria infection and having dubious drugs tried out on them.

All this fruitful activity resulted in considerable progress in the chemical onslaught on the malaria parasite. But, though the military problem was solved, the method of methods for a mass attack on malaria lay in another direction.

As soon as the mosquito was pinned down as the carrier of malaria, interest in mosquito nets (an ancient invention) and the destruction of mosquito breeding places revived. Already at the beginning of the century, there was serious talk of "stamping out" malaria in the interests of colonial development. Now to the classical method of drainage was added the treatment of stagnant water surfaces.
with petroleum products and Paris green in order to destroy mosquito larvae. Biological control was also attempted by introducing larva-eating fish into ponds and lakes where mosquitoes breed.

**DDT to the rescue**

All these methods could only scratch the surface of the tremendous problem, for, if effective, they were too expensive to be applied on a very large scale. The prospect changed completely with the advent of DDT. This insecticide, soon to be followed by others, opened up the possibility of attacking adult mosquitoes on a broad front largely because of its residual effect, the comparative ease with which it could be applied, and its comparatively low cost. The chain of malaria infection from man to man might be broken by reducing the number of mosquitoes in man’s immediate environment. Here at last was a real chance of stamping out the disease not only in military camps, precious plantations and other select sites, but throughout large areas and even whole countries.

Venezuela was perhaps the first country to take the bold step of launching a national eradication programme. This happened in 1945 under the guidance of Arnaldo Gabaldon: not reduction, nor control, but eradication once and for all. In the following year, a five-year eradication plan for all Italy was announced by Alberto Arnaldo Gabaldon: not reduction, nor control, but eradication once and for all. In the following year, a five-year eradication plan was launched by the World Health Assembly. In the preceding years, the feasibility of eradication had been amply demonstrated (in Sardinia and Cyprus, for example), considerable experience had been gained in spraying programmes and in the logistics of large-scale programmes (houses can be counted, mosquito breeding places cannot), and the whole malaria question had acquired some urgency because mosquitoes were beginning to develop resistance to insecticides. This phenomenon was first noted in Italy in 1947, then in Panama, in Greece and other parts of the world.

Today the global campaign is being waged intensively, first and foremost through the spraying of insecticide on the inner walls of dwellings, but also with other methods. In some areas, drugs are being used. Where populations are remote and houses uncertain, salt mixed with an anti-malarial drug is distributed, a method first devised in Brazil and now being used in other suitable countries also.

To estimate the size of the problem in a given area and to measure progress in the battle, human blood samples are taken and examined under the microscope for malaria parasites. On this count alone—to give an idea of global dimensions—45 million slides will be examined annually during the coming years, providing full-time employment for 3,000 microscopists.

Where the number of cases has become very small, a house to house search for fever cases is undertaken in order treat the last lingering sources of infection.

If throughout a given area the chain of infection can be broken and transmission continuously interrupted for three years (this period takes into account the late relapsing cases), then malaria can be said to be eradicated and all that is needed is a surveillance service for some years that will step in rapidly if the infection should show signs of starting afresh. (The need for co-operation across international boundaries is obvious.) From the financial point of view (quite apart from benefits derived from the reduction of disease) the proposition is attractive because it is in fact a once-and-for-all operation: when eradication is achieved, the available energies and moneys can be devoted to other purposes.

That the task of world-wide malaria eradication is not all plain sailing is evident (money apart) from a rapid glance at some of the questions occupying malaria research workers at present: Which mosquitoes where are how resistant to what insecticide? How long can mosquitoes live? How can medicated salt be made more effective? What anti-malarial drug will have the most lasting effect? What causes mosquitoes to develop resistance to insecticides? Will malaria among monkeys or other animals be a threat to human beings when human malaria has gone?

**Population explosion**

The dinosaur has disappeared, the dodo is dead, the great auk is seen no more, and now man is attempting by his own efforts to inflict the same fate on the human malaria parasite, responsible for the world’s greatest single cause of disablement and the world’s costliest disease.

What will be the result of success? Jammed in the traffic or sitting on a crowded beach or reading horrific population statistics, some may frown on malaria eradication as a threat to their own or to their children’s existence. But such selfishness is out of order because a world with less disease will be a better world, for the children also; and needless human suffering should not be prolonged if the means to stop it are available; and no country can hope to achieve a happy productive life for its citizens if it is dragged down by malaria.

The history of malaria divides itself neatly into periods: from the mists of time to the use of cinchona bark, then on to the discovery of the parasite, and from there to the insecticide era.

The rise of malaria on earth will perhaps never be known, but those interested in its decline may watch now; for the King of the Diseases is being dethroned.
This photograph is a piece of evidence. A ploughman, Benigno Madriaga, is working a field that has been lying fallow in one of the most malarious districts of the world, the high plateau of Tabuka in the north of the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Since the 17th century, every effort to cultivate this fertile soil was frustrated by malaria which cut down the colonizers. Only some head-hunting Kalinga tribes were able to survive in the highlands. Today, after 15 years of systematic malaria work, the plateau of Tabuka has been opened up to the farmer. Benigno Madriaga, 72 years old, was one of the first to set himself up in the newly liberated land. The Kalingas don't hunt heads any more but have settled down and are taking part in the life of the 23 villages that are developing on the plateau. The example of Benigno Madriaga shows that eradicating malaria brings not only better health but also new crops, new prosperity and a new social life. Many such examples can be cited from many parts of the world (see map on page 14-15). The article overleaf is based on the numerous reports received by WHO on this matter.
THE CONTRIBUTION OF MALARIA ERADICATION TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

MALARIA IS PRESENT in 140 countries and territories inhabited by over 1,000 million people (see pages 4-9, Slaves of Fever). Such a state of affairs is recommendable neither from a humanitarian nor from an economic point of view. This disease—from any point of view an extremely costly one—is in fact a medical anachronism. The emerging nations at this time need all their energies for development, but there is malaria in their path, causing widespread absence from work as well as physical and mental degradation. Malaria hinders industrial and commercial development, and restricts agriculture by preventing the full use of natural resources. For thousands of years, it has levied its tax on the individual, the family, the community and the nation with an appalling regularity unequalled by any other disease.

COST OF A MALARIA CASE

It has been estimated in a number of countries that a man with malaria is incapacitated for work during an average of six days a year and will need about two months to regain his normal output.

Loss of income may be attributed to five main causes: 1. The sick person is incapable of working while the attack lasts. 2. Other members of the family give up their usual activities to take his place or to look after him. 3. The convalescent takes a long time to regain his strength, efficiency and output. 4. Malaria often occurs at harvest time and so prevents the farmer from reaping the fruits of his field. 5. Malaria dampens initiative and may deprive the farmer of the energy and will-power to get going on a plan for ploughing and sowing his land, thereby perhaps vitiating the next harvest.

Malaria does not only mortgage the future but also eats into whatever meagre reserves of cash may be to hand. Medicine, the visit of doctor or healer, the stay in hospital have to be paid for by the patient or by his family. Nor is spiritual assistance free, and money often goes to the priest or the sorcerer to pay for offerings or sacrifices, or to exorcise evil spirits. In popular belief still, fever and its delirium are caused by supernatural forces.

The loss of income caused by malaria is serious, because the disease mostly affects social groups whose earnings are not large, i.e. small farmer and agricultural workers. In these social strata, the family budget is usually barely sufficient to cover food (80% of expenditure), clothes and housing. When income is interrupted, the precarious balance of food is upset and malnutrition is added to the effects of malaria. The family is faced with complete destitution.

Although malaria is now mainly a rural disease, it nevertheless inflicts considerable loss on local industries. Absenteeism and the output of workers debilitated by malaria mean wasted effort. The need to engage surplus workers puts up production costs, particularly when the enterprise makes itself responsible for the lodging and welfare of its employees.

The very fact of not being able to rely on a steady labour force entails a form of disorganization that for the business concern is more costly than the direct losses caused by absenteeism.

COST OF EARLY DEATH

For family and community, a growing child means an “investment” of care, food, clothing and education. Admittedly this “investment” does not begin to “pay dividends” until the child, at the age of say 15, starts being productive himself. On this argument, a life lost at the age of 15 is also a total economic loss.

Because in malarious regions few people live to grow old, the under-fifteens make up a large part of the population. Where in a healthy country they would amount to twenty per cent of the total, in a malarious country they exceed forty per cent. This creates an appalling situation where the productive part of the population sees the unproductive devoured by illness before productivity starts.

In Mexico, an attempt was made to calculate with some precision the cost of early death from malaria. The average length of life in Mexico is 45 years. Of these 45 years, 30 are taken as being the productive period. Earnings in Mexico amount to an estimated average per person of $13,000 over 30 years. If death occurs at the age of 30, the productive period has only lasted 15 years and the amount of money that might have been, but was not, earned may be said to be $6,500. Multiply this sum by 24,000, i.e. the number of Mexicans that die every year because of malaria at an average age of 30, and an annual financial loss of $156 million for the whole country is arrived at.

COST OF ENDEMIC MALARIA

In addition to the direct economic effects on individuals and community, the presence of malaria affects goods and produce, and consequently the whole economy of a country.

In endemic zones, rent for land and housing is low, for the peasant will prefer to abandon land infested with malaria. He is forced to sell his goods at a low price to pay debts incurred during his illness; labourers to clear the land and work it are difficult to find; because of the shortage of workers, irrigation systems and roads are difficult and costly to build.

In general, malarious lands are potentially rich and fertile. They are mostly located in valleys where there is water, which could make them still more fertile. But it is precisely water that provides the malaria-carrying mosquitoes with the means to proliferate. The soil of malarious regions lends itself to cattle farming and to growing crops of rice, cotton, tea, tobacco or sugar. Villages might be developed and
**IE NATION**, malaria eradication means a
ciér and happier people. Freed from
disease, n make a greater contribution to the national
. After eradication new conquests beckon.

could be linked by roads, which in the
valleys would be easy to build.

Although it has not been established
with certainty, there is every reason to
believe that Mesopotamia, which even in
the days of Harun al Rashid had 30 million
inhabitants, was ruined by malaria. Today,
the most wonderful valley in the world
has only 5 million inhabitants. Between
Tigris and Euphrates the desert has taken
over what used to be the granary and
garden of the world.

When malaria prevents the good soil
in the valley from being cultivated, the
peasants seek refuge in the uplands where
harvests are insufficient to cover the needs
of the population.

The presence of malaria interferes with
and raises the cost of public works and
regional development plans. The delays
in building the Panama Canal, the
Alexandra Docks in Bombay, and the
Bengal-Nagpur railway are examples com-
monly cited. Regions with malaria are
also those that call for hydraulic en-
gineering developments (irrigation, soil
conservation, hydro-electric works). Irri-
gation may also spread malaria by bring-
ing water to arid districts. In such cases,
“progress” has negative results, and it is
thus imperative for the engineer to work
hand in hand with the malarialogist right
from the start.

It has been claimed that malaria in-
creases the production costs of manu-
factured goods and raw materials for
export by five per cent. The five per cent,
dubbed “malaria tax”, are paid by the
importing countries, i.e. by the consumer.
Malaria would thus be a factor in increas-
ing the cost of living. In the United States
of America, sixty per cent of whose im-
ports come from malaria-ridden countries,
the “malaria tax” on this argument re-
presents an annual expenditure of $ 300
million.

**COST OF ERADICATION**

As its name implies, the world ma-
laria eradication programme aims at
totally eliminating malaria as quickly as
possible everywhere for all time. Malaria
control programmes with more limited
aims, it was realized, were insufficient and
would have to be repeated year by year
without the work ever, as far as could be
seen, coming to an end. Furthermore, the
resistance of insects to modern insecticides
gave rise to the fear that the disease would
reoccupy territories from which it had
been banished.

From the financial point of view, the
eradication programme has the advantage
of calling for finite expenditure: it is pre-
ferrable to make money available for a plan
of work which will come to an end, rather
than to engage in sporadic expenditure
that may have to be repeated for ever.

Such considerations, among others, led
countries with malaria to provide a special
line for malaria eradication in their public
health budgets so that the eradication
programme might be consistently pursued.

The total cost of world malaria eradica-
tion has been tentatively estimated at
$ 1,691,137,000.

The total cost per person works out at
an average of about $ 1.70. This figure is
but a general approximation. The cost per
person depends on the surface (per person)
to be sprayed with insecticide, on rates of
pay for malaria workers, on means of
transport, and other factors which vary
from one region to another. Annually, the
cost of eradication may be anything from
$ 0.12 to $ 0.50 per person. Though such
costs may seem low, the expenditure can-
not well be met at village level and has
to be taken on at national level with,
usually, some international support.

World expenditure on malaria eradi-
cation is small compared with expenditure
on other counts. In 25 countries, the cost
of the eradication programme for the
period 1957-1961 totalled $ 290 million,
whereas their annual national income
totalled $ 86,000 million. In other words,
the annual cost of the eradication pro-
gramme amounted to only 0.07 % of the
national income.

**BENEFITS OF ERADICATION**

It is difficult to separate the benefits of
eradication from those due to other de-
velopment factors. Yet malaria eradica-
tion clearly affects infant death rates and
general mortality. It reduces absenteeism
among school children, civil servants and
labourers. It increases output, enhances
the value of land and facilitates the
rational exploitation of resources. It makes
a redistribution of population possible by
opening up new land to settlement. It
facilitates the tourist industry. It encour-
ages capital investment.

If eradication put a stop to deaths from
malaria, the productive population of the
world increase by an estimated 1,500,000.
The number of people that fall ill with
malaria has already dropped from 250
million in 1955 to 140 million today.

The total disappearance of malaria will
demonstrate that what superficial observ-
ers have called the fatalism of the care-
less tropics was simply the torpor of malaria.

Next page: Examples of the cost of malaria
and the rewards of eradication.
MEXICO: $150 million a year
Economic losses due to malaria have been estimated at $150 million a year.

EL SALVADOR: $40 million a year
Mr. R. Caceres Bustamente, Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, declared in 1951: "Malaria alone causes an annual loss of production equivalent to $40 million." At that time, El Salvador had 200,000 cases of malaria, with 3,000 deaths annually out of a population of 2.5 million.

PERU: Population Increase
The prettiest port on the Peruvian coast, Chimbote, which handles coal and iron, did not succeed in developing economically until after the eradication of malaria. The population increased from 5,000 in 1942 to 10,000 in 1947.

BOLIVIA: The good earth exhausted
The Ministry of Hygiene and Public Health estimated the number of man-days lost annually because of malaria at 1.6 million (on the basis of 64,000 cases a year in the period 1951-1954). Taking a daily wage to be 3,000 bolivars, the annual loss of income amounted to 4,800 million bolivars.

In fertile regions such as the valley of Cistiri, Minque, Rio Chico, Azerto y Yungas del Chapare, child mortality was so high the survivors were called "malaria leftovers" (chuchu puchus in the Quecha language). Only the highlands were habitable, where the soil worked for centuries, was becoming exhausted. Harvests were insufficient. Considerable quantities of foodstuffs had to be imported, which meant a heavy charge on the national economy.

SPAIN: Irrigation and agriculture
Following malaria eradication, the building of barrages and irrigation systems enabled agriculture and industry to be developed in areas that were previously malaria-ridden. New settlements were created and employment possibilities have greatly increased in the valleys of the Tagus, the Guadiana, and the Guadalquivir.

PORTUGAL: More rice
The area planted with rice was doubled between 1949 and 1957.

MOROCCO: Rice cultivation
Until 1951, the cultivation of rice was not feasible for it increased the incidence of malaria.

TRANSVAAL: Increased turnover
The disappearance of malaria led to the development of the town of Groblersdal and the settlement of 300 families.

The price of land in the district of Tsumeb rose by 400% between 1944 and 1948.

Expenditure on the anti-malaria campaign in those regions has been largely covered by agricultural development and increased revenue and taxes. Production increased by more than 400%, and the surcharge of cooperative concessions rose from $1,070,000 in 1945 to $3,541,000 in 1948.

This map shows in dark grey the territories around the world where over 1000 million people are still threatened by malaria. The
INDIA: Six days a year
A WHO consultant writes: "Assuming that an attack of malaria causes absence from work for 6 days a year at a minimum salary of 2 rupees a day, and that some 25% of the people affected are salary earners, the annual loss amounts to 150 million rupees in income alone. Furthermore, if it be considered that malaria decreases the output of the individual by about 25% a year, the total loss on this account would be about 2,250 million rupees a year, making in all a loss of 3,400 million rupees a year."

CEYLON: Waste lands for settlement
Thanks to malaria eradication, over a million people have been settled on lands that used to be deserted. Rice production has increased by 50%.

TAIWAN: Cost of an epidemic
The cost of an epidemic in the district of Kao-shou in the south of the island in October 1953 has been calculated with some accuracy.
1. Out of a population of 5,156 inhabitants, 3,005, i.e. 57.2%, contracted malaria.
2. Apart from children under 10 years of age and children going to school, the total period of incapacity for work amounted to 17,680 man-days. On the basis of the lowest daily wage for unqualified laborers, i.e. NTS 8 (40 New Taiwan dollars = 1 US dollar), the loss of income amounted to NTS 141,440.
3. Labour engaged to make up for absenteeism represented 2,284 man-days or NTS 18,272.
4. The cost of treating the sick (anti-malarial drugs, herbs prescribed by healers, doctors' visits) totalled NTS 96,333.
5. Other expenditure (special food for the sick, religious ceremonies and burial services) amounted to NTS 17,015.
The total cost of the epidemic can thus be assessed at NTS 273,060, i.e. NTS 52 per person. At the time, malaria control measures in Taiwan were costing less than NTS 4 per person per year.

CAMBODIA: Rise in land prices
Anti-malaria work has been pursued in the district of Chamcarlen since 1953. The population increased from 19,000 in 1955 to 40,000 in 1959. The price of land increased from 200, riels to between 5,000 and 10,000 riels a hectare.

THAILAND: 150,000 tons of rice lost
Before 1950, malaria entailed an annual loss in agriculture of 50 million man-days, a figure that corresponds to the planting and harvesting of 400,000 acres of rice, producing some 150,000 tons. The export of such a quantity would bring in about $15 million a year. The anti-malaria programme for 1954-1958 only cost $518,000 a year.

PHILIPPINES: $54 million a year
It was calculated in 1957 that malaria cost the Philippines at least $54 million a year, as follows:
10,000 deaths $15 million
Cost of treating the sick $25 million
Loss of earnings because of the disease $14 million

RYUKYU: An island rehabilitated
Because malaria has disappeared, the island of Iriomote can now be developed. People are again settling on the island.

INDONESIA: More rice
Extract from a letter from the Minister of Health to the Prime Minister: "We may assert without fear of error that one illness, malaria, deprives us each year of more than 3,500 million rupias."

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ROUMANIA: Industrial development
Malaria eradication in the Danube delta resulted in the development of fisheries and agriculture.

GREECE: More rice
The area planted with rice increased 10 times, between 1938 and 1954.

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Five World Health photographers (Paul Almasy, Philip Boucas, Jean Mohr, Eric Schwab, P. N. Sharma) brought back 1,000 photographs from their travels through the world of malaria (Mexico, Liberia, Sudan, Roumania, Iran, India, Cambodia, Philippines). From among the vast collection World Health chose the following pictures for a world photo essay on the malaria eradication campaign. The campaign is aimed at stopping the transmission of malaria, finding the people who are still attacked by the disease (right), and treating the last case even in the remotest of villages. The malaria teams are on the march towards eradication (see overleaf).
By elephant, on horseback, by mule, on foot, in jeeps, the malaria teams make their way into the depths of the forests, through marshes, across lakes. Before they set out, plans were worked out in detail. Villages were surveyed, maps were drawn up. The ultimate success of the campaign depends on every locality, every hamlet, every habitation even the most isolated being visited. The campaign calls for careful logistics and strict organization. Thousands of teams must continue their spraying programme and receive supplies in 140 countries where the terrain is often difficult. The campaign needs specialists who know the latest scientific discoveries and workmen who are familiar with the latest techniques. Material is needed—spray guns, insecticides, microscopes. A diversity of means of transport is used including boats. Tens of thousands of men like those of the Indian team seen on our photograph, armed with their spray guns, are steadily moving forward (see next page).
The smallest recess of the house is sprayed with insecticide. The village headman in Liberia made a point of being there himself when his house was sprayed. He asked the team to start with his house. In this way he will show the village that he completely supports the campaign.

The co-operation of the people is essential. They should understand that the insecticide sprayed on the inner walls of the houses will kill the mosquitoes who settle there to rest. The point of the operation is to prevent mosquitoes infected with the malaria parasite from infecting or reinfecting the population during a period of three years. In this time the parasite will die and cannot reproduce if there is no transmission. Once the malaria parasite has disappeared, the mosquitoes no longer present a danger, and spraying can be stopped. In some countries, the mass distribution of anti-malarial drugs is part of the eradication campaign (picture right). This method is a direct attack on the malaria parasite in the human bloodstream. For it to be successful, every individual in the community must take the drug with absolute regularity. The drawback of this method is that 100% participation is hard to achieve (see next page).
The most elusive nomads must also be covered by the malaria eradication campaign. The millions of wanderers in the world may be a danger for districts already protected from the infection. Coming from non-protected regions, the wanderers may import malaria parasites in their blood and infected mosquitos in their belongings. They may be responsible for reintroducing malaria, which might cause large epidemics. Most nomads have herds of animals which they drive towards fresh pastures from one watering-place to the next. Others are agricultural workers who set out at harvest time. All of them usually ignore national boundaries and hate every kind of restraint on their liberty. The health check is generally regarded in the same light as the financial or the military-service check. Ways of life that are thousands of years old hinder the application of science (see next page).
The seekers are ever on the lookout. Since some species of mosquitoes started to develop resistance to insecticides, the malariologists have to check constantly whether the insecticide used in the campaign continues to be effective. Does the coating on the wall reduce the killing-power of the insecticide? Is the right dose being applied? Malariologists also need to identify the type of parasite prevailing in a given locality. The parasite is found in the salivary glands of the mosquito. Are the mosquitoes caught in protected districts really free of parasites? Thousands of technicians and microscopists are busy on these tasks. In the laboratories, the search continues for the ideal weapon (see next page).
A new weapon has been found in the shape of antimalarial salt. Its effectiveness has already been demonstrated in regions where transport for spraying teams is difficult. Just as iodine is added to salt for purposes of goitre control, so antimalarial drugs are added to salt, which in turn is added to practically every dish cooked in the home. In this way, the parasite-killing drug reaches all members of the population. The method was first tried out among Amazon Indians by a Brazilian, Dr. Pinotti, and is now being successfully applied in several countries in Africa and Asia. It was well received by the people, because it is so very simple. Yet it represents but one step towards the total disappearance of the disease (see next page).
Victory will not be celebrated until the last case of malaria in the world has been found and cured. For several years after operations proper have been completed (insecticide spraying, distribution of drugs), health authorities will have to be on their guard, look into suspicious cases of fever and examine blood samples for parasites (as in Mexico, picture left). In the language of the eradication campaigners this is the surveillance phase; it is of considerable importance to prevent the disease staging a return. In Roumania, the Danube delta used to be a stronghold of malaria but has now reached the surveillance stage. It has shaken off the yoke of disease; gaiety and prosperity have returned (right). In 1962, eradication of malaria may be achieved throughout Europe, which will then be the first of the six WHO regions to have reached the goal.
On the Front against Anopheles

Georges Zottola, the Italian journalist and writer who published an outstanding book on man’s hunger throughout the world, went to Ceylon at the request of World Health to witness hand to hand fighting with malaria. The article which he brought back from his voyage tells of the strenuous efforts pursued by Ceylon to rid itself of malaria, the disease that century after century ravaged the population of the island. He saw how the malaria teams live and work. Before setting out for Ceylon, he was received in Geneva by Dr Carlos Alvarado (Director of the Malaria Eradication Division of the World Health Organization), who spoke to him in these terms of the world malaria campaign: “It’s a real war, an all-out war. Half measures mean defeat.” The following pages tell what Georges Zottola experienced in Ceylon, in the front line of the world war against malaria and its dread ally, the anopheles mosquito.
ON THE FRONT LINE

It was on a sultry afternoon that the plane set me down in Colombo among the tousled coconut trees

Soon I took leave of the two air-hostesses in their turquoise saris and was met by Dr. Frohlich, WHO representative in Ceylon, a ruddy-faced Austrian with a dash of Asia about him. We drove to 6 Torrington Square, a small peaceful house hidden by flamboyant trees. Through the window, young Singhalese could be seen bending over their microscopes. Dr. Frohlich opened the folding doors.

A man in white sat at a beechwood table.

"This is Dr. T.Visvalingam," my companion announced, and there we were before the leader of the anti-malaria campaign, a man "of tremendous enthusiasm and energy" as I had been told at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

The history of malaria and the history of the island are inextricably intertwined. Why, twenty-five centuries ago, did the descendants of the first Sinhalese kings—their Buddhist temples and irrigation works suggest a high civilization—desert their smiling northern valleys to take refuge in the unknown south? Why did their kingdoms fall prey to the all-devouring jungle? A legend dating from the third century A.D. tells of a bow-legged, swollen-bellied demon who spread a strange chilling fever far and wide.

When Anuradhapura was struck by a terrible drought, King Sri Sangabodhi prayed to heaven for relief. A deluge ensued, but after the rains a demon appeared, spreading a fever which brought on the chills, and wherever he went there was shivering death.

In 1300 A.D., the venerable Buddhapatra Thero in his "Ocean of Prescriptions" described a recurrent fever. "It comes back every day, every second day or every third day."

The disease raged without mercy

Without mercy, the disease struck in 1928 and again in 1934, a year that turned out to be one of the worst in the island's history. An official document tells the story:

"The year 1934 was exceptionally dry. The south-west monsoon, from April to September, brought no rain, nor did the following north-east monsoon, from November to March. With very little water in them, the river beds provided breeding places for mosquitoes.

"In early October, the epidemic broke out along the Maha-Oya and rapidly invaded the regions adjoining the northern and central course of the river. At Kegalla, the death rate in February 1935 was eight times the normal figure. In the regions of Kandy, Matale and Kurunegala it was respectively four, six and eight times as high as expected."

"Among the children, malaria took a heavy toll. The regions of Kegalla and Matale registered 452 and 500 deaths for every 1,000 births. At Kurunegala, the death rate was 800 per 1,000. At Puttalem and Anuradhapura, the infant death rate was 512 and 613 respectively for every 1,000 births.

"One third of the cerebral malaria cases died in the first month. Dysentery and pneumonia were added to the evils of the epidemic and many deaths were attributed to these illnesses. Among the children, convulsions often preceded death. Abnormal swelling appeared among some of the survivors, especially the very young, caused by mala-nutrition as happens during war and famine. Malaria was the most frequent cause of miscarriage; mortality among pregnant women was high. Some cases of blackwater fever were noted."

Dr. Ratnamjuka, chief of the quarantine services, completed the nightmare account: "I had just received my medical degree and was assigned immediately. The shock I experienced marked me for life. We travelled through ghost villages. In the huts, grandparents, parents, children, lying side by side on mats, were dying in horrible convulsions. The children's bellies were swollen big and round as drums. Not a house without a fresh grave, and the bodies were piled among the coconut trees."

Within six months—from November 1934 to April 1935—the malaria-transmitting mosquito was stretched unchallenged across the northern part of the island (the dry endemic zone), and swift forays were made into the intermediate (epidemic) zone.

Every raid meant a terrible epidemic, and the outbreaks were repeated at fairly regular intervals every three to five years as the aftermath of a dry period: 1906, 1911, 1914, 1919, 1923.

The first organized efforts to conquer the mosquito were inspired by economics. In 1926, the Ceylon tea planters' association drew up a plan of defense that was entrusted to the brother of the famous Ronald Ross. Some years earlier the government had created a post for a malarialogist and set up its first anti-malaria centre at Kurunegala.

The kingdom of Yala, depopulated and deserted three centuries ago because of the fever

In one of the first maps of the island drawn by the Dutch in 1638, the region of the old Kingdom of Yala carries this notation: "Depopulated and deserted three centuries ago because of the fever."

Father Queiroz wrote in 1687 that the ancient court of Anuradhapura was abandoned following a prolonged pestilence.

"The illness," he said, "is an evil not only of this country but of all hot countries. It attacks the same person two or three times."

In the 17th century, a certain Knox, who was a prisoner for many long years at Kandy in the central part of the island, wrote: "This land is infested and people die at such a rate that often we have nothing to eat, for there is no one to bring us food."

For nearly a thousand years, the mosquito ruled on the throne of Anuradhapura. The insect kingdom
Three million cases in 1936.

Today malaria only strikes one person in 25,000

"In Europe," he remarked, "Armistice Day falls in November, but here November is the month that saw the declaration of our great war."

"This is June 1961, Dr Visvalingam. Your work has now been going on for three years. How far have you got, may I ask?"

He rose and picked up a rule. On the wall, some graphs illustrated the course of malaria.

Dr Visvalingam interpreted the lines: in 1936, Ceylon had 5 million people. Of these, 3 million had malaria that year. In 1960, however, there were only 467 cases from among a population of 10.5 million. In other words, twenty-five years ago, the disease struck one out of every two people; today it strikes one out of every 25,000 people.

"The Five Year War will end in November 1963, Dr Visvalingam. Are you sure of winning?"

The chief of staff looked at me sharply through his glasses:

"We shall win. Eradication will be achieved."

Ripples broke on the red sand as

I sat on the terrace looking through some malaria files

On the beach of Mount Lavinia, the coconut trees swayed like ballerinas' skirts. Ripples, curled by the tropical breeze, broke on the red sand. I was sitting on the terrace of my hotel looking through some malaria files. Dr Visvalingam had given me one yesterday. I had received another one in New Delhi, and a third at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

A group of water sprites were playing on the beach in a flurry of tossing plaits. I was plunged in malaria. As I read I took notes.

"In Ceylon, the near-disappearance of malaria has resulted in an economy of some thirty million dollars a year, that is to say, six times the cost of the five-year eradication plan..."

"The overall cost of this five-year plan is only five million dollars, whereas a single commercial jet plane costs eight million..."

"Since the use of DDT in Ceylon, an annual average of 65,000 acres have been converted to agriculture (1948 to 1958). In a single year, 1958, the paddy fields cleared of jungle amounted to 75,632 acres. These increases have considerable value in a country where 75% of the national income is spent on importing foodstuffs and where as much as two thirds of the country's rice, the staple food, has to be bought from abroad..."

In Dr Visvalingam's file I read:

"During 1960, 94 Anopheles culicifacies were captured in 14,454 DDT-sprayed houses as against 225 Anopheles culicifacies captured in 803 non-sprayed houses..."

"Now that I know your headquarters at Torrington Square", I had told Dr Visvalingam the day before at his office, "I would like to see your men in action."

"I'll pick you up tomorrow morning. We can spend three days in the endemic zone."

While waiting for Dr Visvalingam's car, I saw Agnes, who immediately waved to me. She sells necklaces made of shells. I had met her the day before and had bought one.

"Are you married?" I asked after our greeting. She nodded with a broad smile.

"Any children?"

From the bottom of her basket she produced a yellow snapshot of youngsters standing in a row, like a picture taken at the end of the school year.

"One... two... three... four... nine!" she counted triumphantly.

"All yours?"

"Yeeees!"

"And how many brothers have you?"

"There were nine of us, too. Now we are only two... Me and..."
With a quiver of their leaves,
shimmering trees saluted us as we passed

The powerful car of D' Visvalingam appeared suddenly from behind a clump of rose trees.

We drove off toward what was still called the epidemic or intermediate zone, the first stage of our three-day trip across Ceylon. As part of the anti-malaria campaign, a regional office had been set up at Kurunegala, which, as it happened, was the focal point of the 1934 catastrophe. The road skirted woods of coconut and rubber trees. (Rubber is one of Ceylon's three principal riches, the other two are tea and coconuts.) With a quiver of their silver leaves, shimmering trees saluted us as we passed.

Behind the steering wheel of his car, D' Visvalingam summed up the situation.

"In the epidemic zone, the transmission of malaria has been stopped—for good I hope. Nearly four million people live and prosper today in what was an immense cemetery in 1934. We have stopped spraying. We are now in the phase of surveillance, round-the-clock vigilance, and consolidation."

"In the endemic zone, on the other hand, despite the results achieved, we are continuing to use DDT. Spraying and vigilance. We are fighting on very difficult terrain, for the endemic zone covers the greater part of the island, which is two thirds jungle."

"You are fighting in the jungle?"

"Yes, we have to. Many farmers go in for chena, that is to say seasonal farming in jungle clearings. If we skip a single hut, we run the risk of bringing about an even worse catastrophe than in 1934. Because people are healthier today, they aren't so immune as they used to be.

"Sometimes, our men have to work their way through several kilometers of dense jungle in order to reach an isolated hut. In such cases, they may not have time to return to base the same day, they camp in the jungle."

"And wild animals?"

"Our men are armed. After all, they may be attacked by crocodiles, leopards or bears. The Ceylon bear is terrible."

"And cobras?"

"The jungle is infested with them. Last month, one of our men was bitten by one. You don't survive the bite of a cobra. A year ago, another was attacked by a leopard. Once in a while, a well-behaved elephant will thrust the tip of his trunk into a hut window."

"For some years now, you have been spraying in the endemic zone. Aren't you afraid that the mosquitoes will become resistant to DDT?"

"My technique is to spray often, but in weak doses. Experience has borne me out. Up to now, the local Anopheles culicifacies have developed no resistance. I hope to achieve eradication without any disagreeable surprises."

We drove on. Some leafy banana trees were arched over the road. Now and again we came across a hut where sari-clad Singhalese women with flowers in their hair were making the huge straw hats worn by the tea-pickers.

"How do you organize your forces, D' Visvalingam?"

"At the moment, I have 913 men, most of them in the field. They are divided into three main groups: control units, vigilance units and vigilance sub-units. The control units are responsible for spraying. The vigilance sub-units track down cases in dispensaries and in the huts. A blood specimen of every person with fever is sent to the Colombo laboratory. If the case is positive, Colombo immediately cables the vigilance sub-units track down cases in dispensaries and in the huts. A blood specimen of every person with fever is sent to the Colombo laboratory. If the case is positive, Colombo immediately cables the vigilance sub-units. The vigilance units are responsible for surveillance."

We eventually reached the Kurunegala office. The regional officer, dressed in khaki, came to meet us. We passed from one office to another. Ventilators whirred on the ceiling.

"Any newly detected cases this week, Mr Fernando? Show me today's blood samples, Mr Ariyanathan... I have read your latest report, Mr Paluyawardine... excellent..."

D' Visvalingam knows the name, the face, the work of each of his 913 men. Not a week passes without his making a quick visit to the front line.

"Perhaps it will spoil your weekend..." I had suggested when he had proposed this three-day trip across Ceylon.

A smile had flickered across his ascetic face.

"Spoil my weekend? Weekends in an all-out war? I took my last holiday in 1958. I'll have a rest after eradication."

We went on to the entomology section. Here the habits, behaviour and reactions of the mosquito are studied. I asked to see one. What an extraordinary thing, this fragile insect which a flick of the finger can reduce to pulp, and which has undermined and destroyed whole empires!

"Where are your control units working today, Mr Singhe?" asked D' Visvalingam.

"The nearest is thirty miles away, sir."

"Let's go."

I met the foot soldiers of the war against malaria, humble figures working beneath a saffron sky

D' Visvalingam's big car could not cope with country roads so the chief-of-staff jumped into a jeep. Bumps and coconut trees marked our route.

And so I met the foot soldiers of this war against malaria, humble figures working beneath the saffron sky, barefoot, in khaki shorts, their hair bound in handkerchiefs. Each man was working a sprayer which, like a shower nozzle, projected above his head. They were carrying tanks of liquid on their backs like rucksacks.
For the team it was a difficult day. They were to spray a group of houses belonging to workmen who were constructing a large dam. Was it because of the weather or because of mealtime? Whatever the reason, the workmen had raised a protest.

D' Visvalingam jumped out of the jeep and rushed to construction engineer's office.

"Do you realize what it means? There is the jungle, beyond the river. If even one of your men carries the malaria parasite in his blood, all your efforts—and ours also—may be utterly wasted."

The engineer agreed.

"I promise you. All the houses will be sprayed."

A little later, in his living room, the engineer, sipping from a glass of pineapple juice, told us about his project.

"We are making an artificial lake which will submerge the jungle between those two hills. The accumulated rain water will permit thousands of acres of forest to be converted into paddy fields..."

**With the assistance of the monks,**
**the health inspectors can teach disease prevention**

It is essential to come here, into the heart of Ceylon, to realize the economic significance of the fight against malaria. Wherever the mosquito is conquered, great projects arise. Freed from their age-old infestation, the friendly valleys welcome man.

We drove on into the jungle along a thread of asphalt flanked on either side by weird tropical vegetation.

"A cobra sometimes curls up in the branches of a tree and drops on a passer-by," D' Visvalingam said to me absent-mindedly.

I rapidly wound up the window.

"Here," he continued, "you have not only to know how to drive, but also how to avoid animals. It's part of the war against malaria."

An enormous hump-backed turtle lumbered slowly across the road. The next encounter shortly after was rather more impressive: a crocodile, three meters long, suddenly emerged from a thicket and started crossing the asphalt.

"It's nothing, just a jungle lizard," D' Visvalingam explained as we drove over the beast's tail.

Perched on a milestone at a turn of the road, a black-faced monkey in London-smoke fur sat chewing a banana and watched us pass.

"This is the time when the elephants go to bathe," said D' Visvalingam. "Sometimes a whole herd crosses the road. It is better not to startle them."

We saw no elephants—but at the gates of Anuradhapura, a cobra met his end under our wheels and a large leopard was devouring a monkey by the side of the asphalt.

In the distant twilight a chant was heard: the Buddhist monks were saying their evening prayer. Anuradhapura the holy city, "the city of the hundred kings", cast the shadow of its solemn temples across our path. In the evening light, the world's oldest tree—so they claim here—grown from the branch of a sacred figtree planted twenty five hundred years ago by Buddha's first disciples stretched majestically towards the sky.

In the life of the Singhalese people, 75 per cent of whom are fervent Buddhists, the monks play an important part. The health inspectors work closely with the religious authorities for purposes of educating the public; in the teaching of disease prevention and in the fight against malaria, what the monks say is listened to with respect. I saw the young priests dressed like Buddha in saffron yellow tunics, with shaven heads and black umbrellas as protection against the sun.

We spent the night at the rest house of Anuradhapura. I tossed and turned under a heavy mosquito net. The air hummed with insects, and strange sounds drifted in from the neighbouring jungle. On the walls of my room, milky-white lizards made brief appearances and rattled with a deep throaty voice.

The next morning we visited the regional office of Anuradhapura situated among centuries-old eims. Thousand of monkeys gambolled in the branches, chattering at the top of their voices.

"They are nice," said a man of the anti-malaria campaign. "The trouble is they sometimes get into the office and carry off our papers."

We drove on toward the advance posts. At each dispensary, we stopped briefly. The commander-in-chief would question the man on duty about fever cases and would take notes, analyse, criticize and discuss.

Driving along the road, D' Visvalingam suddenly applied the brake. He had recognized one of his soldiers, a member of a vigilance sub-unit that makes house-to-house surveys.

"Mr Wilson! It is now 10 o'clock. Your working day began three hours ago. Let's have your report quickly. How many houses did you visit today? Any fever cases? How many blood smears?"

Surprised by his general on a hot country road, the soldier became confused and stammered. D' Visvalingam raised his voice.

"Each man," he said later, "must be conscious of his task. It is the humblest soldier as much as the general who wins a war."

**The clearing in the jungle, where children romped amongst the sleeping buffalo**

We penetrated deeper into the jungle until we reached a clearing and a hut which was both bakery and drug store. On the other side of the clearing was a row of three houses facing a well where children romped among sleeping buffalo. The sprayers were at work. D' Visvalingam inspected each house and examined the palm roofs, which provide shelter for mosquitoes. Then he checked the health cards which each householder, even in the depths of the jungle, must by law fasten to a wall of his house.

"What is your name?" he asked the head of one family as he wrote in his notebook.

"D. H. Jimis," the old man chewing a betel nut answered with dignity.

So we spent three days at Pollonaruwa, Dambulla, Matale and Kandy.

The evening—Sunday evening—was falling softly on Torrington Square. I had spent three days on the island as D' Visvalingam deposited me at the steps of Mount Lavinia. I had spent three days on the malaria front line. For D' Visvalingam, it was a war-weekend. The next day, from eight in the morning, he would be at his desk, the chief-of-staff's desk in Torrington Square.

My visit was at an end. The plane took off for Europe, for home where there is no more malaria.

Goodbye Ceylon. Goodbye dear Agnes with the shell necklaces. Your smile, your children's smiles, will mean that malaria is vanquished.
LETTERS TO WHO

I know you need and please ac

0.15 per cent of the gross world product for one year would be enough to finance the malaria eradication programme, the greatest undertaking in public health the world has ever seen.

Malaria eradication costs money. The army of malaria workers (see map pp. 14-15) has to be paid. Then there is the cost of training the malaria workers, for they are made, not born. Add research, the work of the planners behind the scene, the cost of sprayers, insecticides, drugs, microscopes, maps, vehicles, petrol, animals, and the hundred and one items needed in a mass campaign.

The total sum needed to rid the world of its most expensive disease has been estimated at $1,691 million. This appraisal is based on the cost per person protected in different parts of the world and the total population at risk; allowance was made for the expected increase in population and the time it would take to achieve eradication. The figure is no doubt conjectural, but it helps to put global health strategy into perspective.

On a rough and ready estimate, this is less than 0.15 per cent of the 1959 gross world product; it is to spent over a period of about one decade and represents only 12 to 50 US cents (according to country) per person protected.

In 1957 and 1958, an annual $90 million was spent for antimalaria work from known sources. For 1960, a figure of some $103 million is quoted, of which about three quarters were contributed by the governments of the countries where eradication was in progress. The remainder was contributed jointly by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Pan American Health Organization and United States bilateral funds. Contributions from other bilateral funds, such as the Colombo Plan of the British Commonwealth, funds supplied by the Soviet Union and the French Fides Funds, are not included here; hence the actual amount spent is higher than the figure quoted above.

The leadership of the world anti-malaria movement falls to the World Health Organization. WHO has also to encourage research, provide expert advice to governments, assist in national planning and in the training of local personnel, etc.

To help finance WHO's malaria operations, the World Health Assembly established a Malaria Eradication Special Account as an international repository for funds contributed by governments, foundations, industry, labour organizations and the public.

The largest contributor to WHO's Special Account is the US Government who has given $15 million. But many generous gifts have come from more modest sources.

A science lecturer in England wrote:
"As a result of changing my teaching appointment I have been asked by my colleagues at the Hammarsmith College of Art and Building, London, to accept a leaving present. As the nature of the present was left to my choice, I am glad to be able to nominate WHO as the recipient of this present...".

An American contributor arranged for regular payments and wrote:
"I am very much interested in the Malaria Eradication program of WHO and wish, if you approve, that my contribution of $300 for October, November and December, as well as future ones, will be used for this wonderful project."

Another correspondent from Great Britain made the following comment:
"As I tuned in to a 'talking programme' to eat a lonely tea, I heard your talk on Malaria and felt greater publicity of the situation should be made. How many people are free to listen at 4.15 p.m. on
"My Daddy is no more, because of malaria, and I thank you for everything you can do so that other boys will not be deprived of their father's love on account of that wretched illness." The great Italian cyclist, Fausto Coppi, contracted malaria during a tour in Africa and died of the disease shortly after his return to his native land. His son, Faustino, wrote the above letter to WHO. Photo: father and son together.
The Cookly Branch of the British United Nations Association sang Christmas carols in the street and sent the proceeds, £4, to the WHO Malaria Eradication Account.

Sunday? And no address given for those you inspired to help.

"I enclose £5 against the Malaria and hope others will help to stamp out the disease. If three quarters of the fight is won, surely if people knew they'd try to pay for the completion".

From the editor of the Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health, Poona, India, came the following:

"Your guiding suggestion regarding the voluntary contribution to malaria eradication is very welcome... we are sending a cheque for 100 rupees to be credited to your account. We wish it could be more, but we trust that along with the amounts sent by others..."

So far, the Malaria Eradication Special Account has received donations from the richest countries in the world as well as from the poorest ones; some industrial firms, foundations and charitable organizations have contributed; Church dignitaries, private persons and school children have made gifts. All this leads the Organization to believe that the number of donors will grow if knowledge of the dimensions and importance of the world malaria eradication programme is more widespread and if it is realized that the money invested in this health endeavour will be regained in a few years.
"The World United against Malaria" is the slogan recommended for a postage stamp campaign that is being launched by WHO. The grand kick-off is to take place on World Health Day, April 7, 1962, when most of WHO's 109 member states will be issuing stamps to increase world-wide publicity for malaria eradication. This initiative was started by the WHO Executive Board in 1960. Some countries, as this page shows, have already issued malaria stamps of their own before the beginning of the WHO project. The universal symbol of the eradication campaign as proposed by WHO is illustrated on the draft design seen bottom right of this page. It is expected that part of the proceeds from sales will go to support the eradication campaign.
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9 December 1963

REMARKS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you this evening to this Stamp exhibition honouring the Fifteenth Anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I often feel that, to the man in the street, the United Nations must present a complex and even confusing picture of a great diversity of activities. These activities embrace every constructive field of human endeavour, for in these halls are discussed a variety of problems which can be solved by co-operative international action. Some of these problems may be global in character, such as the basic issues of disarmament and development, some of them may be regional in character and some even of essentially local significance. But for the solution of these problems, at whatever level they may arise, the Organization needs the support not only of its Member Governments, but also of the man in the street.

It is therefore important to the success of this Organization that the significance of these and other undertakings of the United Nations be known and understood. To this end many means of information media are utilized, including press, radio, television and motion pictures. One of the most successful of these, in terms of the effective simplicity of its presentation, as well as its widespread dissemination, is the United Nations postage stamp.
For this reason the United Nations has, from its earliest issues, used symbolic designs for its postage stamps in an endeavour to send out to the peoples of the world messages of hope. The stamp which is being dedicated at this ceremony on the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an excellent example of this tradition. It will, I trust, take its place not only in the collections of philatelists, but also in the thoughts of its viewers as a reminder of the common resolve of peoples everywhere to achieve and enjoy the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Declaration.

It is particularly fitting that, on this occasion, we should be doing honour, through its Chairman, to the Commission on Human Rights. I take pleasure, therefore, in presenting to His Excellency, Ambassador Abdul Rahman Pazhwak this folder containing the stamps commemorating the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I also take pleasure in making a similar presentation to the artist, Mr. Rashid-ud Din, who designed the stamp.
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although no perceptible progress had been made in the field of disarmament during the protracted negotiations over the years, you all know that a most important event occurred last year when, on 5 August, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America signed the Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. At the invitation of the three Governments, I had the honour of attending that historic ceremony when the agreement was signed in Moscow. I regarded the invitation as an expression of the deep faith and confidence the three Governments have in the United Nations and all that it stands for.

A year ago, the Treaty, which entered into force on 10 October 1963, was transmitted to me for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter. It has been signed or adhered to by more than 100 states and I hope that it will be signed by all states and extended to ban all tests.

I am happy to be here today to preview a stamp which will be issued by the United Nations Postal Administration on 23 October 1964, commemorating the Test Ban Agreement. The stamp design graphically illustrates the idea that nuclear weapons tests will be kept under lock and key. It is my earnest desire that the Test Ban Treaty should be a first step toward general and complete disarmament, reduction of international tension and the strengthening of peace for the benefit of all mankind.

Now I take pleasure in presenting to Their Excellencies, the Representatives of the Three Governments concerned, as a token of my sincere gratitude, a folder bearing the commemorative stamp on cessation of nuclear testing.
Per conversation. The S-G might want to mention that there was wide response - 107 delegations recommended to their Governments that special declaration, announcements or ceremonies be held on this day as UN Stamp Day.

Date: 16 March 1967

FROM: [Signature]

CR. 13 (11-64)
Statement by the Secretary-General on the occasion of the ceremony commemorating the issuance of the "Independence" stamp - 17 March 1967

At a time when several of the serious colonial problems that remain show no sign of movement towards peaceful resolution, it is fitting to recall that in conformity with the provisions of its Charter the United Nations has always been in the forefront of support for self-determination and independence for the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Indeed, the United Nations can justifiably take pride in the constructive contribution it has made to the emergence of millions of peoples from dependence to independence. It is no less gratifying that this process has been accompanied by the increase in the membership of the United Nations from 51 in 1945 to 122 in 1966.

In commemoration of this process, and in salute to the new Member nations, today has been designated United Nations Stamp Day, and in that connexion the United Nations Postal Administration has issued a commemorative set of stamps. Employing the traditional festive theme of light and fireworks, the stamps reflect the satisfaction of the Organization at the realization by these nations and peoples of their aspirations to freedom and independence. May it also carry with it everywhere the message that many million people are still subject to colonial rule and continue to look to the international community for assistance in achieving their rights under the Charter.
6 April 1962

Press Release II/

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PHILATELIC EXHIBIT TO BE OPENED
11 APRIL AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
BY ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

A philatelic exhibit on the World Health Organization's malaria
eradication campaign will be opened Wednesday, 11 April, at 11:00 a.m. by
the Acting Secretary-General, U Thant, in the public lobby of the General
Assembly Building.

The exhibit coincides with the launching of a global philatelic
campaign through which nearly 100 governments and postal administrations
show their support for the greatest single public health enterprise in the
history of mankind - malaria eradication. Postage stamps already issued and
donated to the World Health Organization will be shown. Another part of the
exhibit will be devoted to historical philatelic material connected with the
World Health Organization since its establishment in 1948.

Among the countries and territories which have so far decided to
issue malaria eradication postage stamps with the slogan, "The World United
Against Malaria", about 50 have also agreed to donate to the Organization
quantities of 10,000 to 100,000 postage stamps as well as related philatelic
material (souvenir sheets, stamp cards, first day and other covers, etc.).
Similar donations are foreseen from other countries while some governments
have decided to give WHO a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their
antimalaria stamps and related philatelic material.

Philatelic material donated to WHO will be distributed by the Philatelic
Agency for Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps Ltd., 225 West 34th Street, New
York 1, N.Y., agent of the World Health Organization.
Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my previous correspondence on the subject of the Plan for the issue of malaria eradication postage stamps. I wish now to inform you of the arrangements I am making for the sale of those stamps and other related philatelic material - souvenir sheets, stamped cards, first day and other covers, etc. - which may be donated to our Organization.

In this connexion I am transmitting to you a copy of the Agreement concluded between WHO and the "Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation" to that purpose. Under this Agreement the "Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation" will act as the exclusive agent of the Organization and will sell, through its specially established subsidiary - the Philatelic Agency for Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps - the stamps contributed to WHO at their face value.

The "Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation" is not a commercial stamp dealer and does not engage in the commerce of trading with stamps. You will note that the Agreement further contains a number of safeguards to protect the interests of donor governments, the dignity of the Organization's malaria eradication stamp project, the income which may derive from the sale of stamps for the Malaria Eradication Special Account and to guarantee equal terms for all prospective buyers.

I hope that those governments who have decided to donate stamps and other related philatelic material and those who intend to do so will find these arrangements satisfactory as I believe that they will bring only a minimal additional workload to the administrations of the donor governments.

ENCL:
I take this opportunity to inform you that nearly fifty governments have already decided to issue the proposed malaria eradication postage stamps, and that a great number of them have notified me of their intention to make donations to the Organization. There is every reason to expect that this special postage stamp project, besides making better known the world malaria eradication programme, will develop into a successful international philatelic event, thus resulting in a valuable contribution to the implementation of the programme.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. G. Candau, M.D.
Director-General
AGREEMENT made by and between

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, whose office is at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, hereinafter referred to as "WHO" and

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PHILATELIC CORPORATION, a New York Corporation, having its office at 225 West 34th Street, New York City, hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation".

WHEREAS,

(a) WHO expects to receive from several nations contributions of stamps, souvenir sheets, stamped cards, first day and other covers, and other similar or related items in connection with the issues by various governments in furtherance of WHO's malaria eradication programme;

(b) The CORPORATION is engaged in the business of the distribution and sales of stamps for Philatelic purposes, and represents that it has never been engaged in stamp trading as a stamp dealer; and

(c) WHO and the CORPORATION, have agreed under the terms hereinafter set forth, that the CORPORATION, through a wholly owned subsidiary to be formed by the CORPORATION, shall be the agent to dispose of the stamps, souvenir sheets, stamped cards, first day and other covers, and other similar or related items that may be contributed to WHO, by the various nations, in connection with WHO's malaria eradication programme.

I. AGENCY: WHO does hereby constitute and appoint the CORPORATION and the wholly owned subsidiary referred to in Article II below of the CORPORATION as its sole and exclusive agent for the sale of the stamps, souvenir sheets, stamped cards, first day and other covers and other similar or related items which may be contributed to WHO, by the various nations, in connection with WHO's malaria eradication programme.

II. FORMATION OF AGENT CORPORATION: The CORPORATION shall, at its own cost and expense, cause to be formed a wholly owned subsidiary corporation under the laws of the State of New York, under the name of PHILATELIC AGENCY FOR MALARIA ERADICATION POSTAGE STAMPS, Ltd., or if such name is not available or acceptable, then under such other name as the parties shall mutually agree upon. The CORPORATION, together with this newly formed subsidiary corporation, will hereinafter be referred to as the CORPORATION-AGENT.

III. OBLIGATIONS OF WHO: WHO shall notify the participating governments:

(a) That it has appointed the CORPORATION-AGENT, as its exclusive agent for the disposition of the stamps and other related material contributed to WHO;
(b) That each of them should consign the contributed stamps and other related material at their own respective cost and risk to J. HENRY SCHRODER BANKING CORPORATION, 57 Broadway, New York City for release to the CORPORATION-AGENT;

(c) That it is absolutely necessary that the contributed stamps and other related material be delivered in New York at least three (3) weeks before the issue date so as to ensure punctual distribution; and

WHO shall further:

(d) Designate the person or persons in WHO to whom or with whom the CORPORATION-AGENT shall report and consult from time to time.

IV. OBLIGATIONS OF CORPORATION-AGENT: The CORPORATION-AGENT accepts the exclusive agency granted to it and undertakes to perform as follows:

(a) To obtain and to deliver to WHO a guarantee of the J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation that it will act as custodian for all the stamps and other related material which it will receive in connection with WHO's malaria eradication programme and that it will release the stamps and other related material to the CORPORATION-AGENT upon its requisition only against payment of the net amount due for each requisition, which payments will be held by the bank until the submission of the reports hereinafter provided;

(b) To distribute and sell the stamps and other related material through its own organization and through sub-agents and distributors which it now uses and through such others as it may deem feasible and necessary for the purposes of this agreement. Such distribution and sale shall be based on equal terms for all buyers and the CORPORATION-AGENT shall avoid any discrimination or favouritism towards any buyer or group of buyers;

(c) To carry on the sale of the stamps and other related material on behalf of WHO in all parts of the world, but within the limitations of the existing laws prevailing in the various countries;

(d) To sell all stamps only at face value. The value to be calculated at the rate of exchange indicated by the issuing government in order to ensure that the stamps and other related material are offered for sale at the value consistent with the local selling price of the issuing government. All questions relating to the selling price of stamps and other related material, which shall be uncertain by reason of the exchange rates, shall be determined in advance by WHO and the CORPORATION-AGENT;

(e) To consult regularly with WHO on matters of mutual interest and to keep WHO informed of its activities;
(f) To publicize the stamps through the media of paid advertisements, press releases and exhibitions and other media. Such publicity shall be of a nature to lend dignity to the WHO malaria stamp programme, and be consistent with the ethical standards of WHO, and shall be subject to WHO’s prior clearance;

(g) To pay for all its own expenses, in connection with the programme, including but not being limited to its overhead, bank charges, travel, publicity and the cost, freight, and insurance that will be incurred in the sales, after the stamps have been received by J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation, and including the charges of the said Banking Corporation;

(h) To pay, for the stamps and other related material sold, to WHO in U.S. dollars, Swiss francs or Sterling unless otherwise agreed to by WHO;

(i) To furnish an accounting verified by J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation within 30 days at the end of each quarter of the calendar year to the completion of the programme. Each accounting shall reflect all stamps and other related material sold during the accounting period, the stamps and other related material remaining in inventory, together with the verified account;

(j) To continue to sell the stamps of any country only for as long as they are authorized for sale in the post offices of that country;

(k) To dissolve the subsidiary corporation upon the termination of this agreement; and

(l) To arrange with the J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation that remittances for the face value of the stamps and other material sold, less the deduction of the agents’ compensation, shall be transmitted at the end of each quarter of the calendar year to WHO in the respective currencies set forth in subdivisions (d) and (h) of this Article.

V. DESTRUCTION OF UNSOLD STAMPS AND PRINTING PLATES: WHO and the CORPORATION-AGENT agree, in order to create confidence in the stamp issues referred to in this agreement:

(a) That donated stamps remaining in the hands of J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation at the date of withdrawal indicated by the participating government concerned will be destroyed and that such destruction will take place in the presence of a witness appointed by WHO;

(b) That it should be recommended to participating governments that all unsold balances of the stamps should, after the dates of withdrawal, be ordered destroyed and that the printing plates and printing materials should be destroyed after the printing is completed.
VI. COMPENSATION: WHO shall allow as compensation to the CORPORATION-AGENT a percentage of the stipulated sales price of all stamps and other related material actually sold, payable in U.S. dollars, such percentage to be determined by agreement between the parties. The compensation shall be accounted for in each of the accountings provided for in sub-division (i) of Article IV.

VII. TERM: This agreement shall commence upon the date of the second signature hereto and shall continue in full force and effect as long as any stamps contributed to the WHO malaria eradication programme shall remain on sale in any post office of any participating government.

In Witness Whereof, the parties have duly executed this agreement, by their duly authorized officers or agents.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PHILATELIC CORPORATION

By __________ Manfred R. Lehmann __________

Date __________ 19th September 1961 __________

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

By __________ Milton P. Siegel __________

Date __________ 14th September 1961 __________
MALARIA ERADICATION POSTAGE STAMPS

The Executive Board,

Having considered the Director-General's report on the plan for the issue of malaria eradication postage stamps,1

1. NOTES with satisfaction the encouraging response given so far in respect of the participation of Members in this project;

2. APPRECIATES the intention of the United Nations' Postal Administration to issue stamps devoted to the malaria eradication programme;

3. THANKS the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union for its valuable co-operation and assistance;

4. APPEALS to those Members who have not yet decided to issue the proposed stamps to do so and thus contribute to the Organization's efforts in disseminating information on and stimulating interest in the malaria eradication programme;

5. EXPRESSES the hope that those Members who have informed the Organization that they could not participate in this project will reconsider their decision and make every possible effort to issue the proposed stamps;

6. WELCOMES any contribution given to the Malaria Eradication Special Account in connexion with the plan for the issue of postage stamps;

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1 Document EB28/17
7. SUGGESTS that the Members carrying out an eradication programme explore various existing possibilities of securing some income from the issue of the proposed stamps to augment the funds available for their own national anti-malaria programmes; and

8. REQUESTS the Director-General to pursue efforts in order to ensure as large a participation as possible in this project and to report on its developments to the twenty-ninth session of the Executive Board.

Sixth and seventh meetings,
31 May and 1 June 1961
EB28/Min/6 and EB28/Min/7
Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my letter C. L. 34.1960 of 7 December 1960 related to the plan for the issue of malaria eradication postage stamps and to transmit to you the designs of the common emblem and two model stamps prepared by the World Health Organization for that purpose. You will recall that under the above-mentioned plan, a copy of which is also attached, it is desirable that all stamps bear a common emblem. Two model stamps have been designed for the convenience of those governments which do not intend to create their own and also to serve as a guide for the application of the recommended emblem.

I hope that your Government will soon be in a position to inform me of the action taken in the implementation of this plan.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

For M. G. Candau, M.D.
Director-General
Members are free to adopt designs of their own choice. For the convenience of those governments which do not intend to create their own, two models of stamps prepared by W.H.O. are attached to this plan as Annex II and Annex III. They can also serve as a guide for the application of the recommended emblem.

The recommended inscription is "The World United Against Malaria".

Correspondence

At the request of Members, the World Health Organization would co-operate to the fullest extent possible in the preparation and issuing of the postage stamps relating to the world malaria eradication programme.

All correspondence concerning this project should be sent to the following address:

Malaria Eradication Postage Stamps
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva
Statement by the Secretary-General on the occasion of the ceremony commemorating the issuance of the "Independence" stamp - 17 March 1967

At a time when several of the serious colonial problems that remain show no sign of movement towards peaceful resolution, it is fitting to recall that in conformity with the provisions of its Charter the United Nations has always been in the forefront of support for self-determination and independence for the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Indeed, the United Nations can justifiably take pride in the constructive contribution it has made to the emergence of millions of peoples from dependence to independence. It is no less gratifying that this process has been accompanied by the increase in the membership of the United Nations from 51 in 1945 to 122 in 1966.

In commemoration of this process, and in salute to the new Member nations, today has been designated United Nations Stamp Day, and in that connexion the United Nations Postal Administration has issued a commemorative set of stamps. Employing the traditional festive theme of light and fireworks, the stamps reflect the satisfaction of the Organisation at the realization by these nations and peoples of their aspirations to freedom and independence. May it also carry with it everywhere the message that many million people are still subject to colonial rule and continue to look to the international community for assistance in achieving their rights under the Charter.
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: U Thant
Secretary-General

THROUGH: Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

FROM: David B. Vaughan
Director of General Services

SUBJECT: Ceremony on Issue of Independence Stamp

As you know, the U.N. Postal Administration will issue a stamp in two denominations on 17 March 1967 honouring Independence attained by member nations as a result of the application of Article 73 of the Charter and the Resolutions of the General Assembly. In a letter addressed to the Permanent Representatives of all member nations dated 13 January 1967, (copy attached) it was suggested that to give maximum publicity to this specific commemoration, member governments make a declaration that the date of issue, 17 March 1967, of this particular stamp is designated as U. N. Stamp Day. Such a special declaration of official announcement would invite national as well as international attention to the primary purpose of this U. N. stamp issue.

Replies have been received from a number of delegations supporting the suggestion and I propose to hold a short Special Ceremony in the West Foyer from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on that date. It will be similar to that held when we issued the stamp in honour of the Treaty on the Cessation of Nuclear Testing.

If you agree I would like to have you and either the President of the General Assembly or the President of the Trusteeship Council make a short statement and then serve coffee and juices afterward. The entire ceremony would be short but I think important and will be well covered for this event.

May I have your approval.
Dear Mr. Ambassador,

As you know, the United Nations since its inception has over the years devoted much effort towards carrying out its charter obligations relating to Trust and Non-self Governing Territories. As a result of the application of Article 73 of the Charter, and the resolutions of the General Assembly the membership of the United Nations has increased from 51 in 1946 to 122 nations as of this date. In recognition of this remarkable achievement of independent status by millions of people, and in commemoration of UN contribution to the processes leading to independence, the UN Postal Administration will issue a stamp in two denominations - 5 cents and 11 cents - on 17 March 1967. A copy of the approved design for the stamp is enclosed.

I think you will agree that maximum publicity would be given to this specific commemoration of independence of formerly trust and dependent territories if member nations would lend some practical support to the event. In salute to the independence of member nations that were formerly trust or dependent territories, such support, if I may suggest, could be in the form of a declaration by the Government that the date of issue, 17 March 1967, of this particular stamp, will be designated as UN Stamp Day.
A special declaration or official announcement would invite national as well as international attention to the primary purpose of this stamp issue. I am circulating this proposal to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations.

Assuring you of my highest esteem, I remain, dear Mr. Ambassador,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

David B. Vaughan
Under-Secretary
Director of General Services
Date: February 1967

J. Grant
Secretary-General

Mr. C. V. Ramachan
Chief de Cabinet

David L. Vaughan
Director of General Services

**Society on Issue of Independence Stamp**

As you know, the U.N. Postal Administration will issue stamps in two denominations on 17 March 1967 honouring independence obtained by member nations as a result of the application of Article 73 of the Charter and the Resolutions of the General Assembly. In a letter addressed to the Permanent Representative of all member nations dated 13 January 1967, (copy attached) it was suggested that to give maximum publicity to this specific commemoration, member governments make a declaration that the date of issue, 17 March 1967, of this particular stamp is designated as U.N. Stamp Day. Such a special declaration of official announcement would invite national as well as international attention to the primary purpose of this U.N. stamp issue.

Applicant have been received from a number of delegations supporting the suggestion and I propose to hold a short Special Ceremony in the West Room from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on that date. It will be similar to that held when we issued the stamp in honour of the Treaty on the Abolition of Nuclear Testing.

If you agree I would like to have you and either the President of the General Assembly or the President of the Trusteeship Council make a short statement and then serve coffee and juices afterward. The entire ceremony would be short but I think important and will be well covered for this event.

May I have your approval.
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I welcome this opportunity to share with you today a few thoughts on the occasion of the issuance of the special United Nations stamp commemorating the International Year for Human Rights. My interest in this event is based on the profound belief that the United Nations must extend all possible assistance to those who lead the difficult but all important struggle for the respect to which all men and women are entitled, as well as the conviction that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". Those are the first words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and their fundamental importance is recognized and supported by thoughtful men throughout the world.

The stamp, like the International Year for Human Rights, serves to remind us that in a few days we shall reach the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That Declaration, and the series of international instruments which have grown out of it, was proposed by the United Nations as a call to the world in order to bring new hopes to mankind during times when respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms was in many areas at a low ebb. Let us pray that henceforth these hopes will be closer to fulfilment.

The entire United Nations family has been actively engaged in meeting the challenge of the International Year. The co-ordinated programmes of United Nations organs and specialized agencies, working closely with Member States, non-governmental organizations and individuals wishing to participate in this common effort, have produced significant initiatives in many areas which should stimulate future progress. The International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran last spring, high-lighted an active year that also included such important international gatherings as the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Paris last September, and numerous activities of Governments of Member States that have brought the importance and meaning of human rights closer to all peoples.

The United Nations Postal Administration has played an important role through its tradition of focusing the public's attention on significant United Nations activities and aspirations. The occasion being marked today is the
culmination of the Postal Administration's programme for this International Year, which has made a substantial and effective contribution in carrying the human rights message to all corners of the world.

The design of the human rights stamp issued today centres on the symbol for the International Year. Its two basic elements have become, over the years, the universal symbol for human rights. The flame symbolizes the soul and spirit of man. The circle of the wreath signifies universality, and is found in the emblem of the United Nations itself. Together they express one of man's highest aspirations - to achieve universal recognition of, and respect for, the basic rights and fundamental freedoms that are due equally to all men.
The Assistant Secretary-General
and Director of General Services
on behalf of the United Nations Postal Administration
has the honour to invite you to attend
a ceremony commemorating the stamp issue on the "Secretariat"
on Tuesday, 16 January 1968
from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.
The Secretary-General will make a statement

RSVP (regrets only)
PL. 4-1234, Ext. 107

West Foyer, 2nd floor
General Assembly Building
This is with reference to our conversation of this afternoon. We have been notified that the Secretary-General is holding a Press Conference on 16 January at 10:30 A.M. We had previously understood that the Secretary-General would be able to attend the ceremony introducing the commemorative stamp honouring the Secretariat on that same morning. The time set for the ceremony had been changed from 10:00 to 10:30 A.M. as better suiting the Secretary-General's convenience. Is there any way that we can change the time of the stamp ceremony so as to permit the Secretary-General to attend and make a brief statement?

Sincerely,

[Signature]

10:30 a.m. on 16 Jan 1968
for stamp ceremony is confirmed. Please send up draft statement early next week

ce m. le mieux

3/1/68
The UNPA will issue a stamp in two denominations commemorating the role of the Secretariat in the Organization of the United Nations on Tuesday, 16 January 1968. A photographic copy of the stamp is attached.

This Secretariat stamp issue will be the sixth and last of a series of stamps issued to commemorate the work of the principal organs of the United Nations. Previous issues have been those for the General Assembly (1956), the Security Council (1957), Economic and Social Council (1958), Trusteeship Council (1959), and International Court of Justice (1961).

A brief ceremony to launch the stamp is proposed on day of issue to be held at the West Foyer on the second floor of the General Assembly Building starting at 10 a.m. Apart from permanent representatives, it is my intention to invite members of the press, the Staff Committee, and senior representatives of the staff of various departments.

As the Head of the Secretariat, it would be appreciated if you would say a few words on this occasion on the role of the Secretariat as a principal organ of the United Nations.
STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE
ISSUANCE OF A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP MARKING THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The United Nations can take pride in paying tribute to the International Labour Organisation on its 50th anniversary by the issuance of a commemorative stamp on the theme "Labour and Development". This commemorative stamp not only focuses attention on the special importance of human resources in the Development Decade but also stresses the very close link between the United Nations and the ILO.

The ILO is an organization from which the United Nations and its other sister organizations have learned much, and one to which the whole United Nations family as well as the world community is enormously indebted. We naturally associate with it the great strides that have been made in the past half century, especially since the Second World War, in the development of human resources, particularly in manpower organization, vocational training and the improvement of labour conditions and administration, as well as in such specialized fields as social security and industrial safety. But perhaps more important still, we associate with the ILO the seminal principle of peace through social justice, and the emphasis placed on the welfare of the common man as a central object of international concern. Through its unique tripartite structure, moreover, it has brought to the solution of our common problems the experience, the wisdom and the support not only of Governments but also of labour and management.

The purpose of the celebration of the ILO's 50th anniversary is not merely a commemoration but an organized effort to intensify international action to promote the common welfare in freedom and dignity. The world employment programme, the initiation of which will be an essential feature of this effort, will also, I need hardly say, form a vital part of the programme for the second United Nations Development Decade, in the preparations for which we are all so deeply engaged. During this anniversary year we are not just looking back at ILO's impressive record of achievement, but also forward to the monumental social tasks which lie ahead of the entire United Nations family. May this commemorative stamp be a reminder to people in every country of the meaning of the ILO in the world today, of the hope the ILO offers for the generations to come, and of the need for the active support of people everywhere on which the success of the ILO, the United Nations itself and the other organizations in the United Nations family ultimately depends.
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON FIRST DAY OF ISSUE OF
TWO COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS 12 MARCH 1970

The basic theme of the two stamps to be issued tomorrow is the pursuit of peace. Though one subject is cultural and the other economic, both happen to be of Asian origin.

The issuance of the Japanese Peace Bell stamp was timed to coincide with the opening of the international exposition, EXPO '70, in Osaka, just three days hence. The original bell will be on view at the United Nations pavilion at EXPO '70, a symbol of hope for peace in a better world. Seen by millions of visitors to Headquarters since 1954, the Peace bell will now be seen by many additional millions from all over the world during its stay in Osaka. The bell, you may recall, was cast from coins and metal given by private individuals, particularly school children, from many countries. It was presented to the United Nations by the United Nations Association of Japan in a spirit of the universality of all peoples' aspiration for peace. When the bell is returned to Headquarters at the close of the exposition, we will perhaps be closer to realizing the hope expressed in its inscription "Long Live Absolute World Peace".

It is a fitting tribute to the massive United Nations effort on behalf of millions of people in Southeast Asia, that a new issue commemorate the Lower Mekong Basin Development Project. Considering that the detailed and systematic investigation of the great potential represented by the resources of the Mekong started only in 1957, much progress has been made; however, it will be many years before all the resources of the Mekong River and its tributaries can be completely planned and developed. By receiving
enormous reserves of water during the rainy season, projected dams will check the destructive power of flooding and provide all the year round much-needed water for irrigation of the land. The controlled release of water will also help to improve navigation on the 2,600 mile-long river. The turbines in the dams will generate electricity to provide power for industries and for lighting cities. As we begin the Second Development Decade, this new stamp will be a reminder for us to complete as soon as possible this vast concerted effort which will assure the well-being of so many people.