WHA4.30  Supply of Insecticides

The Fourth World Health Assembly,

Considering the present critical situation of the world supply of chlorine based insecticides employed in public health;

Having taken note that the use of insecticides in public health programmes is already providing effective protection against insect borne diseases to very large populations and, as regards malaria, is safeguarding the wellbeing of at least some seventy million persons;

Taking into account the stimulation of demand for these types of insecticides which will result from the demonstrations in this field of health work which are being made possible through the United Nations programme of technical assistance for economic development;

Being aware that the effectiveness of this weapon in the struggle to improve world health requires its continued and sustained application,

1. DIRECTS the attention of all governments to the grave repercussions on world health of any interruption in activity resulting from a diminution in the quantities of insecticides available for health programmes;

2. ENDORSES the action taken by the Director-General to present to governments of producing countries the requirements in insecticides for world health purposes and to request the assistance of these governments in maintaining the necessary volume of export shipments to meet those requirements;

3. CALLS ON all users of insecticides to exercise the utmost economy consistent with technical efficiency;
4. **URGES** governments of countries where the means of production exist, to take vigorous action:

   (1) to make available to the producers of chlorine based insecticides in their territories, raw materials and other services to an extent sufficient to enable existing production capacity to be fully employed;

   (2) to make arrangements with producers for the granting of priority to requests for such insecticides for health purposes in other countries immediately after their own most pressing needs have been satisfied;

   (3) to facilitate in every way the export of these insecticides for health programmes;

5. **REQUESTS** that, in view of the gravity of the problem and its far reaching repercussions, the United Nations, through its economic commissions, should arrange for the establishment of a working party or parties (or such other means as the United Nations may decide upon) representing governments concerned both with the production and the import of chlorine based insecticides, which working parties would, in consultation with the United Nations specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned, investigate this international problem and make recommendations to governments and intergovernmental bodies concerned as to the methods which might be applied in order to alleviate the present situation and to ensure that the best possible use is made of existing availabilities of these precious and scarce commodities;

6. **INSTRUCTS** the Director-General to continue his present efforts to bring about an increase in the world availability of insecticides for public health purposes and to cooperate with all other intergovernmental agencies concerned with the problem.

   (Fourth report of the Committee on Programme, adopted at the eleventh plenary meeting, 25 May 1951)

   [A4/R/73]