

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

Report on Activities since the First Session

The Executive Committee reported as follows:

Iceland and Austria had recently acceded to membership of the Commission and Italy was expected to become a member in the near future.

With regard to the questionnaire issued to all countries in Europe, replies had been received from 16 countries and an analysis had been made. It was felt that the information contained in this analysis was of considerable value and would provide useful background for the formulation of policy for a European scheme for the control of foot-and-mouth disease.

Visits had been made by the Temporary Secretary to 9 European countries during which the activities and objectives of the Commission were discussed with the appropriate veterinary and other authorities. The Commission was also represented at the Meeting of the Permanent Committee for the Study of the Technical Problems concerning Vaccination against Foot-and-Mouth Disease, convened by the OIE in Brussels. At this meeting, results of some of the most recent work on the laboratory diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine production were discussed.

During his visits to European countries, the Temporary Secretary had discussed the reporting of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, stocks of vaccine and virus for immediate use, facilities for extended scale production and arrangements for the typing of strains of virus. Close personal contacts were maintained with OIE, OEEC, and the Permanent Committee of I.V.C.

Pursuant to a decision of the first meeting of the Commission, the question of research projects in regard to foot-and-mouth disease had been discussed with OEEC and OIE.

A few non-member countries appeared to be deterred from joining the Commission because, among other things, of the scale of contributions.

In discussing the work of the Commission since the first meeting, the Members of the Committee specially stressed the importance of the provision of a full and prompt service of information from European countries on outbreaks and other particulars of foot-and-mouth disease and the rapid dissemination of such information to all European countries. Some members expressed some concern that the membership of the Commission had not increased to a greater extent.

The Commission endorsed the foregoing report.