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O.I.E./F.A.O.* Regional Conference on Epizootics in Asia,
the Far East and Oceania.

Dr P.R. Harvey, Chief Veterinary Officer (Services) Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries, Territory of Papua and New Guinea, attended the above-named Regional Conference held at Canberra, Australia, from 20-24 October 1969 as a delegate from Australia. Dr Harvey also acted as S.P.C. representative at the Conference, and his report to the Commission is circulated herewith.

Delegates from sixteen countries, including Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua and New Guinea attended the Conference.

Of interest to territories is the presence of Foot and Mouth disease epizootic in pigs in Vietnam. In territories where there are commercial aircraft connections with Vietnam, this may have special quarantine implications, and quarantine officers should be made aware of the situation.

In the report mention is made of Surra and Haemorrhagic septicaemia in Indonesia, and that notes on the clinical symptoms of these diseases will be submitted to officers on the border districts of Papua/New Guinea with West Irian. Because the remaining South Pacific territories are geographically isolated, it is far easier to control movement of animals and animal products and minimise disease introductions. Dr Harvey is of the opinion that concern over the spread of Surra and Haemorrhagic septicaemia to other parts of the Pacific is not warranted. These diseases are not zoonoses and man does not, therefore, play a part in direct transmission. In the case of Surra, it can only be introduced by infected and carrier animals and insect vectors, and in Haemorrhagic Septicaemia by carrier animals.

* O.I.E. - Office International des Epizooties.

F.A.O. - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

The Conference expressed concern on the introduction of exotic diseases through illegally imported animal products or ships' garbage, and the resultant feeding of this material to animals. The attendant risks involved with garbage feeding cannot be minimised, and territories should also be aware of the difficulties in enforcing controlling regulations. Aircraft garbage is of no less importance, especially with the larger aircraft, and the steadily increasing number of commercial flights to all territories.

In its recommendations, the Conference emphasised the precautions to be taken in the importation of animals with respect to Foot and Mouth disease, Brucellosis and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia. With the last named it is to be noted that only two properties in Australia are regarded as infected, and no cases of Pleuropneumonia had been reported in the current year. Many territories of the Region import cattle from Australia, and should therefore note the recommendation, 'that imported live cattle ought to be negative to two complement fixation tests for contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia not less than 25 nor more than 30 days apart while in isolation in the exporting country, and that they be purchased from an area that is free of the disease.'

In the event of an outbreak or suspected presence of Foot and Mouth Disease in a Territory, every effort should be made to establish an early diagnosis and determine the type of strain(s) responsible for the disease. This can be done through the Indian Veterinary Research Institute Makteswar, India; the Razi Institute, Teheran, Iran; the F.M.D. Institute, Nang Sara, Thailand, or the FMD World Reference Laboratory, Pirbright, United Kingdom. Territories are expected to adhere to the strict precautions as recommended by the Pirbright Laboratory for the shipment of samples. The Commission will attempt to secure a copy of the precautionary recommendations for circulation to the Territories.

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ISSUED IN THIS SERIES

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13-18 May, 1968, Report of S.P.C. Observer.
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| 2. | South Pacific Commission Publications' Series. October 1968. | Publications |
| 3. | Free Diving Without Breathing Apparatus - Its Accidents. March 1969. | Public Health |
| 4. | "A" Level: Australia's Notification on Bovine Pleuropneumonia Regulations. March 1969. | Plant and Animal Quarantine |
| 5. | Study Tour to Noumea, Brisbane, Territory of Papua and New Guinea and British Solomon Islands Protectorate. March 1969. | Tropical Crops |
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| 7. | Introduction and Spread of Culicoides and Other Insect Species by Aircraft. May 1969. | Public Health |
| 8. | Diarrhoeal Diseases in Adults. May 1969. | Public Health |
| 9. | "A" Level: Agricultural Education - Bulletin No. 2. May 1969. | Agricultural Education and Extension |
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| 11. | Agricultural Extension Workshop - Western Samoa. November 1969. | Agricultural Education and Extension |
| 12. | Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society. December 1969. | Tropical Crops |
| 13. | The Status and Potential of the Chilli Industry in the Solomon Islands. December 1969. | Tropical Crops |

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| 14. | Manpower Planning in the South Pacific.
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Engineering |
| 16. | U.N. World Youth Assembly. May 1970 | Social Welfare and
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| 17. | News and Views from the Journals. June
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| 25. | Crown-of-Thorns Starfish. July 1970. | Fisheries |
| 26. | Counter-Attack - Crown-of-Thorns Starfish.
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| 27. | A Simple Field Test for Determination of Salinity of Water Supplies. December 1970. | Public Health |
| 28. | Asian Coconut Community. January 1971. | Tropical Crops |
| 29. | O.I.E./F.A.O.* Regional Conference on Epizootics in Asia, the Far East and Oceania. | Livestock Production and Health |

