

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
JAMAICA'S MEMBERSHIP.

This report on the Pan American Sanitary Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 20th August to 5th September, 1962, at which Jamaica's application for membership in this International Organization was accepted, is now submitted for the information of the House.

The Honourable H.W. Eldemire, Minister of Health, accompanied by his Permanent Secretary and Chief Medical Officer, attended the Conference so as to propose Jamaica's acceptance for membership and to participate in the deliberations.

The Pan American Sanitary Conference is the supreme directing body of the Pan American Health Organization and also the regional committee of the World Health Organization of which Jamaica was an associate member up to attainment of full membership on the 20th of August, 1962. It is of interest to note that whereas the World Health Organization came into existence after the Second World War, the Pan American Health Organization was formed 25 years before. The fundamental purposes of the Pan American Health Organization are to promote and co-ordinate effort in the countries of the Americas to combat diseases, lengthen life and promote the physical and mental health of the people. There are now 25 member states, including Jamaica. Jamaica is the Organization's first new member since it was founded 60 years ago.

The delegation was informed of the types of assistance that could be secured and the responsibilities devolving on Jamaica as a result of its new status as a self governing nation and full member of the Organization. In the past, before Jamaica became a full member, benefits in the direction of specialized training of officers, visiting experts and schemes, such as the Malaria Eradication Programme, were received. These were of inestimable benefit in the development of our health services. For the future, Jamaica can expect to receive continued benefits in these and other fields.

The ordinary PAHO budget for 1963 amounts to \$5,990,000, which is allocated as follows:-

Pan American Health Organization - Organizational Meetings	\$ 229,850
Pan American Health Organization - Headquarters	1,713,198
Pan American Health Organization - Field and Other Programs	3,559,452
Pan American Health Organization - Special Fund for Health Promotion	187,500
Pan American Health Organization - Amount for Increasing the Working Capital Fund	300,000
	\$ 5,990,000

Nearly all revenue is derived from member states' contribution, Jamaica's being \$18,259 (£6,087). There is little doubt that the benefits to be derived are considerable in relation to the annual contribution Jamaica is required to make.

After the Conference, the Minister and Permanent Secretary visited New York to assess the nature and scope of assistance that might be available from the various Foundations in the U.S.A. There are a very large number of Foundations, the majority of which are relatively small in resources.

Very few Foundations contribute towards hospital building programmes and practically none to such programmes overseas. They are mainly concerned with :-

- (i) educational projects, and
- (ii) research projects,

and concentrate on schemes which would either add to existing knowledge of specific diseases or, if successful, would have a wide application. The Rockefeller Foundation, for instance, who were most sympathetic, were particularly interested in the epidemiological survey which is now going on at Lawrence Tavern. They have, in fact, contributed largely - because this is a scientific investigation into the causes of cardio-vascular diseases and the procedures for providing medical care for rural or semi-rural community might well form a model for treatment in other communities.

Finally, it is clear that those foundations, such as Ford and Rockefeller, which are interested in overseas assistance, are centering their activities in Africa where they consider that the needs are greatest.

To summarize, while Jamaica can expect to reap continued benefits from the Pan American Health Organization, the prospects of obtaining assistance from U.S. Foundations for local hospital building programmes and the like are not very encouraging.

Ministry of Health

30th October, 1962.

No. HH 54/123/06.