

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

C.371.1929.III.

Geneva, August 26th, 1929.

HEALTH REORGANISATION IN BOLIVIA.

REQUEST BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN REPUBLIC REGARDING THE
COOPERATION OF THE LEAGUE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council the following letter received on August 20th, 1929, in which the President of the Bolivian Republic requests the assistance of the League Health Committee in reorganising the health services of Bolivia.

8A/13967/13967.

Office of the President of the
Republic,

LA PAZ, June 29th, 1929.

Translation.

To the Secretary-General.

Sir,

My Government is convinced that the assistance of the League's numerous and efficient technical committees can be of immense value and assistance to each of its Members. Consequently, the importance of a common effort on behalf of public health and for the encouragement of research and investigations into diseases in countries, situated in different latitudes and possessing different climates, such as Bolivia, should not be overlooked. As effective co-operation in health matters is in accordance with the humanitarian aims of the League, my Government does not hesitate to propose to that institution, through its Secretary-General, a form which this co-operation might take for the purpose of effectively assisting the reorganisation of the Health services of Bolivia.

This proposal may be summarised as follows:

1. The Health Committee of the League would send as delegate a health expert to cooperate with the Bolivian Director-General of Health in the scientific organisation of public health. This preliminary work would take six to eight months.

2. During this period, the Health Committee would look for and select a health expert to work as technical cooperator with the Bolivian Director-General of Health for two consecutive years.

3. It is understood that the delegate referred to in paragraph 1 might also fill the office mentioned in paragraph 2, subject to mutual agreement; in that case, he would continue to discharge his duties for the additional period of two years.

Pending the decision at Geneva on the proposal which I have the honour to put before you, the Directorate General of Health will carry out certain urgent preparatory work, to which I think it advisable to refer. Needless to say, if the present proposal is accepted, the Directorate General of Health will draw up an adequate programme for the expert's work and the basis of an agreement to ensure its successful conclusion.

The preparatory work in question will consist of:

1. Vaccination against smallpox; enquiry into malaria, hook worm and child welfare; the organisation throughout the Republic of departmental health services.

2. The work of organisation will deal mainly with the following questions, which are most urgent from the point of view of the country's health;

Central organisation: establishment of a laboratory;

malaria;

child welfare and possibly Calmette's vaccination;

hook worm.

3. Programme to be carried out later; organisation, management and operation of a public health institute in accordance with the country's requirements, to include: (a) a laboratory: (b) the technical training of health officers.

The visit of Dr. Etienne Burnet, the distinguished representative of the League's Health Committee, afforded my Government the opportunity to hasten the execution of certain of its long-cherished schemes for progress in health matters, by taking advantage of the excellent advice given by this eminent specialist and by addressing an appeal to the greatest, most complete and humanitarian international institution in the world.

I am convinced that this proposal will receive favourable consideration.

(Signed) HERNANDO SILES.